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The KINGBIRD

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WAYS OF THE "SEA GULLS"

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

PART II

General Feeding Habits

In Part I Herring Gulls feeding on farm lands of Eastern Long Island on menhaden (mossbunkers) many years ago, and more recently on earth worms, was discussed. We now deal with the general habits in pursuit of food which brings them around garbage dumps, mud-flats, sand bars, shallow estuaries and coves, grassy drains, tidal run-offs and breakwaters.

Because of its boldness, search for food by the Herring Gull has been easiest to study. Its diet ranges from the tough tail of a skate tossed into the air by a fisherman and swallowed, through garbage including chicken heads on the dumps, offal at sewer outlets, and various shell-fish, to the delectable bay scallops which here and there are found in shallow water such as at Zachs Bay. As scavengers they crowd the city dumps, flying up by the hundreds as garbage trucks arrive to unload. Sewer outlets have now been largely if not entirely eliminated in many places. The one at The Narrows in Brooklyn a few years ago, which attracted numerous Herring Gulls and occasionally Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus ridibundus*) and Little Gulls (*Larus minutus*), mentioned by Cruickshank (1942), is now a thing of the past.

Besides scavenger-feeding as mentioned above, occasionally Herring Gulls will fly in fast and snatch bread thrown on the water as visitors feed feral ducks.

Shell-fish. Because of the abundance of Herring Gulls on the South Shore, a good cross-section of varieties of shell-fish in each location may be acquired by looking over various areas for the strewn shells along concrete highways and on large parking fields, such as at Jones Beach.

For example, on the Wantagh Causeway near the south bridge over Sloop Channel, hard clams and gray or black mussels may carpet the roadside in places, along with an occasional whelk. Along the western bays of Long Island the most abundant of the larger shell-fish is the gray mussel which is found in thick clusters along the marshy banks of creeks and drains. These are inedible to man, but are used for bait, or may be crushed in a bag and sunk close to a boat to attract flounders.

On the brick promenade at Zachs Bay, Jones Beach, broken scallop shells dot the area in this only location locally where these are abundant. At Oak Beach during some seasons oyster shells are found on the concrete roadway. These represent repeated drops on the cement before their hard chalky layers break, in direct contrast to the brittle hard clam. Along the ocean-front parking fields in the winter of 1958-59, with little else available, sand-crab shells were sparsely sprinkled on the concrete surface. All these give a rough indication of what gulls eat on western Long Island. On eastern Long Island, where there is little or no concrete, Latham describes the gulls as rising higher each time as they drop a shell-fish on the hard sand until it strikes a rock or the valve is broken. He says that scallops soon open their valves when exposed to the air, whereupon the gulls feed on them. Scallops being lighter in weight descend less rapidly and so are less likely to break than heavy clams and whelks. He also remarks that shell-fish to the size

of adult decker-shells are swallowed whole and the young of larger species to the size of an inch in diameter, and that on plowed ground he has counted as many as 22 of these little mussel shells in a single excreta.

During winter weather, in times of severe storms and heavy frost and ice, hundreds of hard clams sometimes wash out of the mud, and on days of stormy, northwest winds, which drive the tide to extreme low levels, the gulls may partly deplete the clam crop in some areas. Also at times of extremely low tides, Herring Gulls have been known to probe for hard clams, pulling away the mud and exposing the clam to remove it. On one occasion, when the upper one third of some half dozen or more clams had been cleared of mud, an observer approached along the channel edge in his boat. Inasmuch as the tide was covering the mud-flats, and with more digging to be done, the flooding waters thwarted these gulls from getting their meal.

In one case a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) acquired a medium-sized hard clam where it didn't want it: gripped on its lower mandible, presumably while probing in the mud. The weight of the clam pulled its tired neck, threatening to drown it, as it swam along head partly down in the water. Upon release, the Ring-bill ungraciously pecked my hand, then swam away from the boat with head held high, but apparently was unable to fly for the moment with its saturated plumage.

The sharp eyes of the gulls are ever on the watch. Once on the ocean front at Jones Beach, when my back was turned, several gulps by a Herring Gull took about a dozen blood and sand worms out of a nearby cardboard container, leaving only the sea-cabbage. Needless to say my bait-casting that day ended then and there. Roy Latham tells of a man in East Marion, near Orient, who dug a dozen big oysters and opened them, planning to visit a friend. After dressing, and when about to leave, he found that Herring Gulls had flown onto his porch and eaten the whole dozen leaving only the shells.

Fish. The stretchability of the gapes and gullets of gulls is phenomenal and if that sounds like a mouthful, one should watch a Great Black-backed Gull swallow a flounder! At Montauk, one November day, the writer saw a Great Black-backed Gull standing on the edge of a rocky breakwater, where among kelp and mussel-shells, it found a dead flounder. This was estimated to be six to seven inches long. Walking over, it picked up the fish, bent it back head meeting the tail and tried to force it down. The action looked ridiculous as the sole-shaped form, stiff and springy utterly failed to enter its throat.

On a second attempt it took the flounder by the fore parts, curved it lengthwise, angling it to one side, but again failed to swallow it. Another similar try was also unsuccessful. No attempt was made to peck the flounder to soften or divide it as the gull picked it up for the fourth time. This time it applied strong pressure with its powerful mandibles across the head and shoulders; whereupon it curved the fish lengthwise into a pointed roll; then with a mighty effort it got the fish inside its mouth and with its throat extended to an unbelievable degree, the flounder stiffly disappeared into its gullet. The gull then followed the common procedure of water-drinking following the swallowing of a large object. It did this by repeatedly dipping its bill into the edge of the channel. After a few seconds it swam out into the deep water and with crop extended and head held high drifted regally

with the tide to the opposite shore for more bill-dipping, preening and quietude to digest its heavy meal.

In the fall of 1959 Emanuel Levine saw a Herring Gull on one of the parking fields at Jones Beach with a starfish in its bill. Arranging the starfish it strained to fold the five points back on themselves and then, with a violent effort tried to swallow it. According to Levine, the starfish disappeared halfway down the gull's throat but the slightly spread points kept the gape forced open and the bird seemed ludicrous as it made several other attempts at swallowing its gritty object. Finally tossing it out on the concrete, it pecked away at the starfish until it separated it into three portions and then swallowed each piece separately.

In connection with feeding behind fish boats, Irwin Alperin of Babylon Biologist of Marine Fisheries, while observing with commercial fishermen on Gardiners Bay in the summer of 1952, watched Herring Gulls and Ospreys capturing undersized porgies and butterfish of about five or six inches in length which were thrown overboard by the net fishermen. These either floated in the wake of the boat or recovered and swam away.

Sometimes as many as seven or eight Ospreys would be in sight following the boat at about a thousand feet distant, where they would plunge downward and as they hit the water grasp their prey with extended talons. The Herring Gulls excitedly followed close enough in the wake for Alperin to see them pick up and swallow head-first both butterfish and porgies, although the fishermen were of the impression that the gulls avoided the spiny and heavy-dorsaled porgies. Alperin expressed the opinion that this practice could be highly dangerous, as the quick erection of the needle-sharp dorsal fin of the porgy could easily penetrate the membranes, obstruct the throat passage and kill the gull.

According to Roy Latham of Orient, toad fish are commonly caught while spearing eels in winter through the ice. The larger of these big-headed, bony fish cannot be swallowed whole, so they would chop them up with an ax in suitable sizes and throw them to the Herring Gulls.

Eels. Latham writes: "From 1910 to 1912 we used to spear eels through the ice for a business. Gulls have a preference for eels and become most familiar at such times. Gulls will snatch an eel almost from under your feet on the ice; they grasp the eel by the head and fly to a safe distance on the ice while the eel is wiggling and squirming. If the gull cannot swallow the eel entirely it picks them to pieces starting at the weaker spot around the stomach."

Walter Dawn (1952) tells of a Great Black-backed Gull forcing a Herring Gull to disgorge an eel which it had possibly seen it swallow earlier. At any rate, after chasing the smaller gull through an intricate maze of flight over the Loop Causeway, between Jones Beach and Point Lookout, the Great Black-backed Gull halted the Herring Gull in mid-flight and stabbed at its crop, whereupon the eel was ejected and fell to the sand below. The Great Black-backed Gull immediately dropped down and, according to the writer, "Without seeming to break its powerful line of flight, picked up the eel to successfully down it in one clean movement as it proceeded on its way." Dawn estimated the eel by its impression on the sand to be ten inches long by an inch in diameter.

Not so easily swallowed was a somewhat heavier eel, estimated at 12 to 13 inches long, which was caught by an immature Great Black-backed Gull one summer day on the north side of Jones Beach Sanctuary pond near the eastern end. When first seen it was pounding the eel on the dry, baked mud. All blows were directed at the head and the continuous pounding of the gull's powerful beak became almost monotonous as I watched through a 50-powered telescope from a quarter-mile distance, entirely unknown to the gull. As the eel's squirming ceased, the gull picked up its limp form, walked about a dozen feet to a pool, wet it to restore the sliminess and then took it back on the mud. The first two tries got the slippery eel only about halfway down its throat, whereupon the gull ejected it. On the third effort it evidently coiled the limp eel to some extent in its gullet without violent gulping, whereupon, after it got it past a certain point, the eel rather rapidly slid down the rest of the way and disappeared from view. This no doubt accounts for the continual beating to cause limpness in the eel, as any squirming in the extended crop might prove rather uncomfortable. After swallowing the eel the gull resorted to the frequent water drinking, which I have noticed on several occasions to follow immediately after heavy meals. Apparently it makes little difference whether fresh or salt water is used, as evinced by this instance and the one concerning the Great Black-back swallowing the flounder at Montauk.

Predation

Although no interference was noted by Irwin Alperin between gulls and Ospreys on his eastern Long Island commercial trips in a news item in the New York Times, July 15, 1958, the Times writer tells of accompanying Roy Wilcox on his annual trip to Gardiners Island.

In this particular case an Osprey was carrying a fish in its talons and had to weave through an almost solid umbrella of flying gulls. The article states that eight Herring Gulls immediately peeled away from circling to dive and peck at the Osprey all the way to its nest.

Latham writes: "Predation concerning other birds is only casual to me. I have seen Herring Gulls pick dead waterfowl and other birds to pieces when found on the beaches. Three times I have seen them attack helpless, badly oiled waterfowl, and crippled ducks stranded on the beach are rarely killed there. When the big tern colony was flourishing in Orient, Herring Gulls did take some young terns and eggs and they were troublesome to the adult terns . . ."

Regarding the Great Black-backed Gull he claims their habits do not differ materially around Orient from the Herring Gull, except that they are more predatory. "The Great Black-backs are very strong birds" writes Latham, "I have seen two of these attack and quickly kill a Herring Gull with a broken wing on the beach. The Great Black-backs are too scarce in the Orient region to form any true decision on their predatory behavior. In connection with this I quote Mr. George H. Lings, an oologist in England, who told me personally on a trip to Gardiners Island that the Great Black-backs, which breed commonly in parts of the British Isles, are very domineering on a nesting site and will take eggs and young and even attack adult birds and that they soon drive away all other breeding species from the location. He advises checking the breeding of the Great Black-backed whenever it started to nest in a location where other species are breeding".

On one occasion at Lake Montauk, members of the Lyman Langdon Audubon Society of Port Washington reported to me that on one winter day, about five years ago, a Great Black-backed Gull continually attacked an American Coot (*Fulica americana*) until it killed it. Each time the gull swooped the Coot dove, until exhausted it lay on top of the water, whereupon the gull stabbed at its head, ate only its brains and flew away.

Relative to crop predation, Latham claims the most serious is that to cucumbers in the fall. He writes: "Whole fields may be destroyed when a flock of gulls stop in a field during a stormy day. They attack all sizes from pickles to jumbos, swallow the pickles whole and a few jabs groove out the larger sizes, making them worthless for market or table use. It is difficult to drive a flock of gulls from a cuke field. I have seen a farmer keep a man sitting in a rocking chair in cucumber fields to scare the gulls away, but this is not workable in a large acreage. Late in the season I have seen every pickle in a field cleaned off down to an inch in length, the field being completely destroyed for that season."

Status

As may be seen above, the tremendous increase of the Herring Gull has caused a considerable decrease in our more desirable and attractive birds on Eastern Long Island, such as Ospreys, Terns and Skimmers. All writers in recent years, when mentioning the Herring Gull, remark of its tremendous increase, and Irwin Alperin (1954), in "Whither the Herring Gull" states: "All the evidence points to the fact that the Herring Gull colonies on Long Island will continue to grow and there will be many breeding stations scattered throughout the area. This is gratifying in the sense that it illustrates how remarkably an adaptive, aggressive species can take over when given protection. But it may not be to our interest to allow this population to get out of hand and depress many other breeding birds which we are anxious to maintain in this region."

About the only natural enemy the Herring Gull appears to have now is the rat and that only on one island east of the Ponquogue bridge on Shinnecock Bay. Here rats have been found to have killed and eaten young of the Herring Gull, having taken them there for several years.

Cornelius Ward of Roosevelt says he saw a Pigeon Hawk this fall several times attack a Herring Gull, forcing it down toward the water. Other occasional killing or crippling attacks from various sources may be observed, but there appears to be no serious detrimental factors affecting its present status and future rapid increase. Each year additional new areas are infiltrated by the Herring Gull and in the fall and winter of 1958 hundreds could be found even on the roofs of institutional buildings of the State Hospitals near the Long Island Sound in Kings Park, and scores in the interior at Pilgrim State Hospital. More noticeable, two years ago, a large flock resorted the grassy reserve land at Greenfield Cemetery at Hempstead. Last winter they invaded the cemetery itself, their somber gray backs blending in with the tombstones as they walked between them or while standing on top of some monument, an unnecessary addition to its grace and beauty.

Neil Smith of the Brooklyn Bird Club sent in an exhaustive census of the gulls in Brooklyn a few years ago. The census was taken November 2, 1956, with — counts of two and a half hours spent on the Floyd-Bennett

dump alone, the entire circuitous route traversing from the 69th Street Ferry in Brooklyn along The Narrows, Gravesend Bay, Canarsie, Spring Creek, Cross Bay, The Raunt to Rockaway Peninsula, Rockaway Point Jetty to Coney Island and Sea Gate. The results of this circuitous route were a showing of 23,309 Herring Gulls, 556 Great Black-backed Gulls, 246 Ring-billed Gulls, 60 Laughing Gulls and 55 Bonaparte's Gulls. On the Floyd-Bennett Field dump alone there were 12,355 Herring Gulls and 265 Great Black-backed Gulls.

"Why did we take the census?" Smith asks. "Well, with the presence of birds as numerous as gulls in your area, the good observer should know the answer 'How many?' Fish and Wildlife might be interested. It will also boost the claim of metropolitan New York as 'The Gull Capital of the United States'.

"Estimating the number of gulls is very difficult. I agree that this count is representative but not the ultimate. A better way would be to count all the gulls at one hour all over the region using many observers. This count is a progress report on gulls in our region."

Banding

Allan Penberthy of Babylon, with his associates, has banded young Herring Gulls consistently at the Captree colony since 1956. Out of the many hundreds banded have come the following recoveries:

Captree Recoveries

1st year birds

Date Banded	Recovery Date	Place	Remarks
July 7, 1957	Aug. 25, 1957	Fire Island Inlet, L. I.	Caught in fish net, released
June 22, 1958	Aug. 30, 1958	Beach Haven, N. J.	Found dead
July 13, 1958	Oct. 18, 1958	Cartaret, N. J.	Found dead
June 15, 1957	Sept. 3, 1957	Absecon, N. J.	Broken wing, killed
June 23, 1957	Nov. 26, 1957	Portsmouth, Va.	Sick, died
June 22, 1958	Nov. 23, 1958	Atlantic Beach, N. C.	Found dead on ocean beach
June 22, 1958	Dec. 30, 1958	Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.	Killed on runway
July 8, 1956	Jan. 1957	Pt. Arthur, Texas	Sick, died
June 22, 1958	Oct. 4, 1958	Stephenville, New Foundland, Can.	Shot and killed

2nd yr recovery

June 23, 1957	April 1959	Oakdale, L. I.	Found dead
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Although the above records are too few to draw definite conclusions from, they do indicate a trend of southward dispersal of the immatures, the later the fall date almost invariably the further the southern movement. In one case, however, we find an individual traveling northward to New Foundland, but as it was taken in early Oct. it might have moved southward before winter set in.

It is interesting to note that with the southward moving immature Herring Gulls, three had reached various parts of New Jersey in extremely late Aug. to mid Oct. November birds were found in Virginia and North Carolina, a Dec. one was in Florida and a Jan. individual was found dead at Port Arthur, Tex.

The one record of a second year gull in April, almost two years after banding, indicates in this instance a return to less than 10 miles away from the nesting grounds.

Summary

The Herring Gull has increased tremendously, and the Great Black-backed Gull to a lesser degree, over the past 40 years, with protection. The former began breeding on Long Island with three pairs nesting at Orient in 1931, two years ahead of published accounts in our literature (Fishers Island, 1933).

Breeding at Cartwright Island was first discovered in 1936. Increases into present day thousands has occurred there and also on the north and south sandy ends of Gardiners Island.

The first Great Black-backed Gull was discovered nesting at Cartwright Island in 1942 with a juvenile banded by Wilcox on one of his annual banding trips. This species was discovered next on Gardiners Island. The combined Gardiners and Cartwright Island breeding counts exceeded 100 adult Great Black-backed Gulls for the first time in 1958. Also that year three young were banded at Captree and a pair for the first time nested in Orient.

By 1955 two Shinnecock islands were each occupied by several hundred Herring Gulls and one pair of Great Black-backs and Captree in 1958 had an estimated 600 to 700 adults and a further increase was noted in 1959.

Feeding habits were discussed from the turn of the century when men-haden were used on the farms for fertilizer to the present day search behind the tractor-plow for earthworms, wire worms, etc. General feeding includes: methods of attaining, and a capacity for swallowing large objects such as fish, eels, etc. and descriptions of local dropping of shell fish on eastern and western Long Island.

Predation on Tern colonies and neighboring sea birds appears to be heavy; killing of others such as crippled gulls, coot, etc. less so. The molestation of the Osprey seems to be serious and the nonbreeding usurping of beach-lands and inland areas and tracts appear to make it a sort of nuisance.

As to its status, the Herring Gull seems to have become a problem bordering on its population getting out of hand to the preference of more desirable species, especially around Long Island and New York City — the latter probably correctly called the "Gull Capital of the United States".

Banding indicates with the few recoveries involved, a southward movement into the deep south among first year birds except for one individual which went to New Foundland.

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NEW YORK STATE BIRDS IN COLOMBIA

MARGARET RUSK

PART II — LAND BIRDS

Records of New York State land birds wintering in Colombia are in a way more fascinating than those of shore and water birds. The latter are for the most part larger and of powerful flight, so that the sea is no barrier to them and one expects more to see them in widely separated regions on migration. But when small warblers, orioles or finches appear thousands of miles overseas from their summer localities, and in habitat strikingly different in vegetation besides, one is impressed with the strength of the migration urge. A beach is a beach, anywhere, but a northern wooded swamp has few elements in common with a tropical thorn locust thicket of the dry savannah, lashed by the northeast trade wind from November to May, and overgrown by coarse vines which leaf out with the rainy season the other half of the year.

In October Yellow-billed Cuckoos literally dropped out of the locust trees of Barranquilla's suburbs and "monte" (the scrub jungle of the Caribbean coast) — Barranquilla is situated 18 miles up the Magdalena River from its mouth on the Caribbean at Puerto Colombia. Average September count of Yellow-billed Cuckoos was three per trip (a trip was about a two-hour three-mile circuit on foot of monte and suburban gardens) with a high count of 20 on Oct 13. My only other records are for Nov: one seen several times in the nispero tree (the fruit is like a delicious winey sickle pear) outside my downtown apartment window, and a slingshot-wounded one brought to me for care.

Flycatchers can be difficult to sight-identify even in the eastern U. S. with only three or four Empidonax possibilities; in Colombia, for which there is no Peterson Guide, they are impossible. There were Empidonaces in Barranquilla in fall migration, but whether from eastern or western U. S. or of tropical origin I could not determine. Wood Pewees were identified by their characteristic call at El Recuerdo, at 3000 feet in the Santa Marta mountains southeast of Barranquilla on the other side of the Magdalena River valley, on Apr 15-17 and 27-28 (more numerous the latter dates). How many times did they silently lose themselves among the other Tyrannidae in Barranquilla?

Eastern Kingbirds appeared around Barranquilla from Sep 18, and as many as 20 were seen at Bocas de Cenizas (the "Mouths of Ashes" of the Magdalena at the Caribbean Sea). on Sep 30. Oct counts were higher, averaging 18 per trip in the monte, with a high of 50-100 at the Barranquilla Country Club Oct 13, perched in the mataraton locusts from which they swooped down to feed over the lawns among the Pectoral Sandpipers and with the tropical Gray Kingbirds. Also in Oct about 50 Eastern Kingbirds came to roost each evening in the mataratones which lined the avenue near the city apartment building. In Nov the numbers roosting there were reduced, but I saw them by the mangrove- and locust-bordered canal near Barranquilla which connects the Magdalena with Cienaga Grande, the large salt-water lake behind Santa Marta's barrier beach. Apparently the Kingbirds proceed inland for the winter at a leisurely pace as the oncoming dry season on the coast cuts the supply of flies except in places close to

bodies of water. My only other Eastern Kingbird record is Apr 15-17 at El Recuerdo when they were probably on their way north.

Barn Swallows were seen on about one-third of trips in Sep and two-thirds of Oct trips, in the Barranquilla suburbs and monte and at Puerto Colombia. They usually appeared immediately after rain — downpours of an hour's duration occur about twice a week in Sep and Oct, with lessening frequency later in Oct — hunting insects over the cut grass stubble. My last fall record is of ten at Puerto Colombia Nov 15. Probably during Barranquilla's complete dry season (December to April) they are forced to migrate inland to find water-frequenting flies. However, I have records of an average of three per trip for April and early May around Barranquilla, this before the first rains.

The only North American thrush noted by me in Colombia is the Swainson's, and only on visits to the interior. They were everywhere in the underbrush at El Recuerdo Apr 27-28, doubtless a pre-migration flocking-up; none had been noted there Apr 15-17 the same year. I also saw them in the shrubbery of the town-square park at Popayan (altitude 5700 ft., at the head of the Cauca River valley between the western and central Andean ranges in southern Colombia) in mid-Jan.

Vireos are nearly as numerous and hard to distinguish in Colombia as flycatchers. The only species seen that I can be sure was a New York one is the Red-eyed, observed several times, all in Oct, in the scrub locusts and vines of the Barranquilla monte, and also in the downtown nispero tree. It would therefore seem to be chiefly a fall migrant on the Caribbean coast.

Among the warblers are some interesting notes: I saw in Colombia most of the North American ones listed in Griscom's "Warblers of America" as common there, either in migration on the coast or wintering in the interior. The commonest coastal warbler is the Yellow, seen year-round. But since there is a local non-migratory subspecies, as well as several western and the eastern North American migrant subspecies which winter in Colombia, it is impossible to determine what proportion of my sight records are of New York birds. Yellow Warblers were heard singing in Oct and Apr.

The next-to-commonest New York State warbler on the Colombian coast is the elusive Prothonotary of North American wooded swamps. It appears around Barranquilla in the dry thorn jungle, so different from its moist summer habitat, as well as in dooryard palms. The earliest fall record, Sep 15, was reported by a friend. She also purchased on Sep 16 a caged Prothonotary from a peddler who assured her the bird was recently captured locally. My earliest view of them in the field was of two on Sep 23. The peak numbers come in Oct, with the maximum noted by me ten on Oct 14. Also I have several Nov, Dec, Jan, and Mar records from the Barranquilla monte and also in the heart of the city in the all-attracting nispero, which indicate that Prothonotaries winter along the coast.

The one record of the Northern Waterthrush is one in a swampy spot along the village road at Puerto Colombia Oct 9, only a few rods from the Caribbean Sea. I have no records of Redstarts wintering on the coast. An alleged recent capture, an immature male which did not live long in captivity, was bought by my friend at Barranquilla on Sep 16. I saw two Redstarts in the nispero the second week of Oct. They were at El Recuerdo in

the tall forest trees Apr 17. At Bolivar's cottage at Bogota (at 8000 feet, its small garden, wedged between high Montserrate and the city of Bogota, is an oasis for birds) and in Popayan I saw Redstarts in Jan.

Blackburnians, common in Colombia's mountainous interior, were at Bolivar's cottage in Jan, at Popayan in Jan and Mar, and in Manizales (on a 7000-foot ridge of the central Andean range) also in Mar. Finally, the Black and White was at Bolivar's cottage in Jan, and the Mourning Warbler at El Recuerdo Apr 16 and 28. I have no records for the last three in coastal areas.

Among the icterids, I saw a small flock of Bobolinks, which do not winter in Colombia, on Oct 14 and one bird on Oct 27, feeding in weedy stubble-hay fields near Barranquilla. Both Orchard and Baltimore Orioles appeared in the downtown nispero tree in Oct, the former from the 7th, the latter from the 15th, and remained in small numbers (a pair or three birds) into Nov. Last date for Orchard Oriole is Nov 25, but a pair of Baltimore Orioles was still seen in the nispero Dec 15, then not again until one male Feb 23 and 28. I saw them there several times in Mar, and a friend in the suburbs had "a tree full" during that month. An indication of the probable numbers and migration dates of Baltimore Orioles around Barranquilla is that they were being sold as cage birds in the market in Feb, Mar, and Apr, but not in May.

In May it was Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Dickcissels in migration which were caught in large numbers to sell in the market. I never saw a free individual of either of these species in the environs of Barranquilla, but they were probably brought as cage birds from the nearby river- and hill-country. I saw the Rose-breasted Grosbeak at El Recuerdo in Apr, and Dickcissels I had seen by the several thousands sweeping over the Santa Marta airport which lies right on the Caribbean shore, on Apr 20. On Jan 1 on the Magdalena not far below Puerto Wilches I had seen tens of thousands of what Dr. Carrier of Popayan indicated must have been Dickcissels, rising like smoke on the horizon over the savannah. Because of its stupendous numbers there, this species may best typify the migration of northern birds in Colombia.

Conclusion

As with the water birds, so too with the land birds it appears that the majority of species which pass through the Barranquilla region winter inland at higher altitudes where more regular rainfall and better water-holding quality of the soil insure a more regular food supply, insect and plant. Therefore the numbers observed on the coast are in general higher during the two migration seasons, though it is more difficult to generalize about this with the land birds than with the water birds, because of the smaller numbers involved in sight records of the former, due to the effect of wind and heavy vegetation in decreasing audibility and visibility. The chief exceptions — landbirds which winter near the coast in some numbers — are the Prothonotary and probably Yellow Warblers, and the Baltimore Oriole.

In the fall, the oncoming dry season seems to be the chief factor which forces the migrants southward and inland at a slow but steady pace. But, in the spring, the effect of the season on the birds' physiology impels them north at a given time, even though in April they must pass through the coastal

region before the rainy season has started. Due to this factor they would pass over the dry strip as rapidly as possible, so the time during which one sees numbers of migrants (in the immediate vicinity of Barranquilla as opposed to El Recuerdo which is moister even before the rains start) would be shorter than in fall, as is in fact the case; pre-migrational concentrations (though of only a few days' duration) were noticeable at El Recuerdo but scarcely so in Barranquilla (or so brief as to go un-noted).

In summary: one can hypothesize on the basis of limited observations that in the fall the oncoming dry season forces the birds inland only slowly, whereas in spring the lingering coastal drought pushes the already-started migration on through to Central America or out over the sea quite rapidly.

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EXCHANGE OF LOCAL BULLETINS AMONG MEMBER CLUBS OF THE FEDERATION OF NYSBC

As of November 25, 1959, the following clubs have indicated a desire to exchange bulletins. Bulletins should be sent to the names and addresses given below.

- Alan Devoe Bird Club — Mrs. Fred Smilow, East Chatham, N. Y.
Buffalo Audubon Society — Mrs. E. D. Csont, Beach Avenue, Athol Springs, N. Y.
Buffalo Ornithological Society — Miss Marie A. Wendling, 87 Garrison Road, Williamsville 21, N. Y.
Burroughs Audubon Nature Club — Mrs. Goodwin E. Lehrer, 105 Snider Drive, Buffalo 17, N. Y.
Genesee Ornithological Society — Mr. Al Starling, 34 Pinnacle Rd., Rochester, N. Y.
John Burroughs Natural History Society — Mrs. H. F. Dunbar, R. D. 3, Box 194, Kingston, N. Y.
Keuka Park Conservation Club — Miss Mae H. Baker, Box 75, Keuka Park, N. Y.
The Linnaean Society of New York — The Linnaean Society of New York, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York 24, N. Y.
Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club (formerly Dutchess County B. C.) — Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Box 1414, Arlington Branch, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
Rockland Audubon Society — The Rockland Audubon Society, Inc., West Nyack, N. Y.
Sassafras Bird Club — Miss Dorothy G. Niles, Pres., 81 Minaville St., Amsterdam, N. Y.
Sawmill River Audubon Society — William G. Fennell, 16 Halsey Place, Valhalla, N. Y.
Schenectady Bird Club Inc. — Nelle G. VanVorst, 67 Snowden Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.
Sullivan County Audubon Society — Edward McBride, Cooper's Corners, Star Route, Monticello, N. Y.
Triple Cities Naturalists Club — Mrs. Newell R. Washburn, Editor, 2204 E. Main Street, Endicott, N. Y.

WILSON AND AUDUBON

JOHN B. BELKNAP

These two eminent ornithologists, each of whom left behind a monumental work on North American birds, are associated with New York State only in a limited way. Since lengthy biographies have been written on both Wilson and Audubon, the following sketches are brief and relate principally to their activities in our state.

Alexander Wilson was born in Paisley, Scotland, in 1766. Achieving little success either as a poet or as a weaver in his native country he came to America in 1794 accompanied by a nephew, William Duncan. For several years Wilson supported himself mainly through school teaching. After coming to this country his interest in nature increased, and acquaintance with William Bartram proved to be an important turning point in his life. In 1802 Wilson was living near Philadelphia, not far from Bartram. Access to the Bartram library and friendship with the naturalist himself soon determined for him the work of gathering material for an "American Ornithology".

In the early 1800's Wilson made two walking trips through New York State. One, to the finger lakes region, had as its objective a visit to his sister, Mary Duncan, who was living near Ovid in Seneca County. The other, to Niagara Falls, was started late in the year and Wilson encountered severe weather before getting back to Pennsylvania. His poem "The Foresters" is based on this trip.

In 1808 the first volume of "American Ornithology" was printed and Wilson set out on a trip to obtain subscribers. He spent a week in New York City before making a circuit of New England. From Vermont he proceeded to Albany where he spent a few days. Despite indifferent success in selling his book, Wilson plunged ahead with the remaining volumes. During the next four years he completed six more and was well along with the next when death overtook him on August 23, 1813. His friend George Ord completed Volume Eight and went on to write the ninth and concluding volume. Wilson is buried in the Southwark section of Philadelphia.

John James Audubon was born at Les Cayes, Santa Domingo, now Haiti, on April 26, 1785. His boyhood was spent in Louisiana and in France. At the age of nineteen he came to "Mill Grove" in Pennsylvania. Two years later he was in New York City, working in the counting house of Benjamin Bakewell. During this period Audubon's spare time was spent in drawing and studying birds.

In 1807 he moved to Louisville and later to Henderson, Kentucky. His subsequent travels covered much of the United States east of the Mississippi. In August 1824 he was in Philadelphia and New York City, following which he went west via Niagara Falls and the Great Lakes. It is probable that this trip is responsible for the background of one of his drawings. Plate 331, the Common Merganser, shows Cohoes Falls, near the mouth of the Mohawk River.

It was during the last ten years of his life that Audubon's principal association with New York State occurred. In 1841 he bought a tract of land at Washington Heights, at that time a rural section of New York City.

The Following year he built a house at the foot of the bluff near the Hudson River, naming his estate "Minniesland". At this time he was working on the "Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America" in conjunction with John Bachman. Only the first volume was destined to appear during his lifetime. After 1846 Audubon's health and eyesight were poor. He died on January 27, 1851 and is buried in the cemetery surrounding the Chapel of the Intercession, not far from his home.

"Minniesland" was known for many years as "Audubon Park" but has disappeared due to the many changes that have taken place in this part of New York City.

Watertown, N. Y.

A CALL FOR PAPERS

On Saturday, May 21, there will be a Saturday afternoon program of short papers at the 1960 Annual Meeting of the Federation of the New York State Bird Clubs at Buffalo. Federation members are invited to participate.

At least one field trip to Canada has been planned. Members who were **not** born in the U. S. A. should bring the necessary papers concerning place of birth and any other pertinent information for presentation to the Canadian Immigration Officers.

Papers should be based on subjects relating to New York State ornithology or to problems affecting our Member Clubs which may be of interest to other Clubs. Talks, illustrated by slides or motion pictures, or with tape recording accompanying them, are usually very popular, but talks without such features will also be acceptable.

Members who wish to present papers at this meeting are requested to contact the writer at their earliest convenience, giving the subject, time desired, and what equipment will be needed.

H. D. Mitchell, Chairman Program Committee of Buffalo Meeting,
238 West Royal Parkway, Williamsville 21, N. Y.

FIELD NOTES

The Cattle Egret in New York State: The history of the Cattle Egret in New York State began in May 1954 when a bird of this species was seen at East Moriches, Long Island. Since that time others have been reported, more in 1959 than in any previous year, and further increases can confidently be predicted. Birdwatchers in New York State should be on the alert to observe and report occurrences of the Cattle Egret to their respective regional editors in order that this development may be fully documented.

Open pastureland is the preferred habitat, birds usually being found in close association with cattle. Look for a small stocky heron with a yellow or orange bill. The plumage is white, except for some buffiness on the head and back of the adult.

The Cattle Egret is a native of Africa, the warmer parts of Asia, and is also found in Spain and Portugal. During recent times a few birds reached South America, apparently crossing the Atlantic Ocean under their own power. Just when this event took place is not known, but the Cattle Egret had become established in northern South America by the 1930's. From there it spread to the West Indies and Florida, where it was found nesting in 1953.

It is a prolific, aggressive species and seems destined to spread rapidly in the United States. By 1959 it had been found breeding at widely scattered points in this country, including southern New Jersey. Its future as a breeder in New York State is uncertain, but nesting in the warmer parts of the state is a distinct possibility — John B. Belknap, 92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur.

Cackling Goose in the Cayuga Lake Basin: On Thursday, October 1, 1959, a wild Canada Goose dropped in on the pond at Sapsucker Woods and attempted to join our six captive Canadas, but was kept at a distance by the six. The following day a total of 21 wild geese were on the pond, and by late afternoon they were feeding with the captive waterfowl under the Laboratory windows. It was immediately evident that one goose was far smaller and darker than the others and had a relatively shorter neck. Its bill was particularly noticeable as it was stubby and gave the head quite a different profile from those of the other geese.

This small goose remained with us for two weeks, and it was seen by numerous observers at a distance of a few feet as it grazed under the windows. I have had considerable experience with the Cackling Goose both on its nesting ground in Alaska and its wintering ground in California, and I had no hesitancy in identifying this bird as a perfectly typical example of the small dark race of the Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis minima*, which nests in Alaska and normally winters in the Sacramento Valley. It was certainly far out of its migration path, and we would like to think that word of our Refuge at Sapsucker Woods is really getting around!

The wild geese left the pond each day to feed in neighboring fields. On October 17 the Cackler returned limping; the following day it was missing, and it did not appear again.

Fritz Scheider reports that on November 22 a similar Cackling Goose appeared at Howland's Island Game Management Area where several weeks earlier he had also seen an apparent Richardson's Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*). These are the first reports of the Cackling Goose in the Finger Lakes region — Arthur A. Allen, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

Dovekie in Saratoga County: Periodically the Schenectady Bird Club schedules field trips to Saratoga Lake, just east of the famed racetrack resort in Saratoga County. Such a trip was conducted last November 15 in distinctly uncomfortable weather conditions. A northwest wind was blowing at 20 to 25 mph, with gusts a bit higher. The temperature was about 34 degrees, and the skies were overcast. The previous day had been unusually mild with temperatures in the fifties brought about by a SSE wind.

The number of species of waterbirds observed was rather disappointing. It was while most of us had our binoculars trained on two White-winged Scoters near Snake Hill along the east shore that one member of the group observed a small chubby black and white bird which had alighted on the water not more than 70 feet away. Great was the joy and astonishment among the seven observers when the bird turned out to be a Dovekie. It remained on the water for not more than a minute, then took off in a south-southeasterly direction and was soon lost behind some trees along the shore. To one who has had the privilege many times in the past of observing Dovekies and other alcids wintering off Cape Ann in Massachusetts, it was with utter amazement that this seabird was found so far from the coast. The puzzle is deepened by the fact that no on-shore storms occurred along the north Atlantic Coast during the previous days, which might have blown the Dovekie inland. A perusal of records proved this to be the first documented observation of the species in this area — Gus Angst, Rosendale Road, Schenectady.

Snow Geese in Rensselaer County: On Sunday, November 8, 1959, Rensselaer County's Tomhannock Reservoir was the scene of a movement of Snow Geese which was unusually large for this area. During that day the Schenectady Bird Club held its annual trip there, and three different groups of observers were at large in the area. The tardiness of one group was rewarded in midmorning with the sighting of at least 57 Snow Geese at a moderate altitude near the southern end of the lake. Then at about noon (just as the first group was describing its success to the second) a second flock of some 400 Snow Geese, arranged in a highly unsymmetrical V with a few additional birds flying inside, was sighted almost overhead. They were so high that their calls could hardly be heard, and without binoculars it was difficult to distinguish single birds in the line. As a very rough estimate, the birds were at an altitude of about a mile or more. Later in the afternoon a third group of observers sighted first a flock of about 250 geese in two unsymmetrical V's, and as these were almost out of sight, a third V of 150 birds, all at about the same height as the large flock of 400.

In all cases the birds were traveling at a constant heading toward or a little southwest of south. Each flock was examined as carefully as circumstances permitted for darker birds, but without positive success. In all, about 850 Snow Geese were seen, but the nature of the trip (much of it by car) makes it possible that the movement of geese through the area was actually heavier — Walter E. Kaskan, 2120 Plaza, Schenectady.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON AUGUST 16 — NOVEMBER 30

JAMES K. MERITT

The summer's dry weather continued until the arrival of the remnants of a tropical storm in late September. The early part of the period was generally warmer than might be expected, again a continuation of a summer trend. November marked a return to more normal conditions.

The fall season is in many respects the most interesting of the year, and certainly this fall was no exception. It was a season marked by diversity — good flights of certain species and poor flights of others. There was at least the usual quota of westerners reported, and there were some noteworthy occurrences among the shorebird group. Overall the flight of small land birds was perhaps average at best, although a few good waves were noted at some localities, these principally in the western and central parts of the state. The almost universal warm and dry weather in September (and attendant lack of weather fronts) seemed to preclude major flights on a state-wide basis. In this respect the migration was very similar to that of last spring.

The Canada Goose Flight was an excellent one throughout, and Blue and Snow Geese were also represented in relatively good numbers. On the other hand, some varieties of ducks, principally divers, were inexplicably scarce. The hawk flight was generally good, and the number of Rough-legged Hawk reports, while not record-breaking by any means, presaged a moderately good winter for these birds.

Thirty-four varieties of shorebirds were reported, and undoubtedly the low water level at certain localities was a factor here. Phalaropes were widely reported; the Northern was seen in six of the ten regions, the Red in three, and the Wilson's in two. A Marbled Godwit was the first Region 2 record since 1950, and the Hudsonian Godwit and Avocet were among the shorebirds seen in Region 5. Purple Sandpipers were noted at several localities in the central and western regions. The variety of gulls observed in the Buffalo-Niagara area could hardly have been exceeded, and a compact flock of some 30,000 Bonaparte's was seen there. Little wonder they were not overly common elsewhere! Dovekies showed up off Long Island, not too unexpected, and individual birds were observed inland in Regions 5 and 8, both quite unexpected. Snowy Owl observations were apparently confined to Regions 5 and 6, with a dead bird being reported from Region 7.

The flights of northern finches and related winter visitors ran the gamut from poor to heavy. There appeared to be a generally good Redpoll invasion, and the rare Hoary Redpoll was observed in Region 2 and 6. Pine Siskins, however, were quite scarce. A few Red Crossbills were seen. Evening Grosbeaks arrived in sufficient numbers to indicate at least a mod-

erately good season, but where were the Pine Grosbeaks? At least light Red-breasted Nuthatch movements were noted in some regions. Several Bohemian Waxwings were seen in Region 2, and a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was noted in Region 4.

Honors for rarity of the period would possibly go to the Bell's Vireo banded on Long Island. The few previous sight records of this bird in the state have all been from that area. The Western Kingbird was reported from Region 2 as well as Long Island. An Eared Grebe was observed in Region 1.

REGION I — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

The latter half of August continued warm, and the month ended with its average temperature about 6°F above normal. Precipitation was also distinctly above average but fell mostly in scattered thunderstorms which left some areas still parched from the dry summer. For reasons probably other than the weather some southward bound land bird migrants arrived earlier than usual. September weather was unusual; it was the warmest in thirty-eight years and the driest September ever recorded until 2.25 inches of rain, remnants of Hurricane Gracie, fell on the last day. It was the sunniest summer on record at Buffalo. The water level of Lake Erie remained quite low. Even though good shore and mud flat conditions were present in many areas, the shorebird flight was near normal. October brought the first disturbances of the period as local windstorms occurred on the eleventh and eighteenth. It was still a rather warm month with the temperature reaching the freezing point on only one day. Rainfall was excessive during the month, the total being 2.44 inches above normal. Vegetation reflected the general rains as leaves and grass turned greener in many sections which were affected by the summer drought. Noteworthy during October were the excellent flight of Canada Geese and the widespread occurrence of Red and Northern Phalaropes in this month and September. Several species of land birds stayed to later in October than usual. In contrast to the mild month of a year ago November was the first month since March with the average temperature below normal. A minimum of 13°F on the seventeenth and eighteenth broke long standing record lows. Several moderate snowfalls in the latter half of the month left the ground covered, particularly in parts of the Allegheny Plateau. November was an outstanding month ornithologically. The number of gulls along the Niagara River was spectacular for the third successive year. But this time the species ratio was different as will be seen later. Also the occurrence of rare species among them caused considerable excitement among local observers. The migration of small land birds was fair to occasionally good, but individual species numbers appeared to be at a fairly low level.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons and Horned Grebes were not reported in the region until October. Brockner reported one of the former on the Niagara River off Grand Island Oct 11, and a Horned Grebe was observed on Attica Reservoir in Wyoming County Oct 10 (Rosche et al). The first Red-necked Grebe was reported from Lake Ontario near Point Breeze on Oct 18 (Ulrichs), and one was seen on Lake Erie at Athol Springs Nov 3 and Nov 12 (Bourne). An Eared Grebe was noted by many observers on the Niagara River opposite Bird Island Nov 26 (Rosche, Brownstein, et al). A freshly dead Pied-billed Grebe was found in the gorge at Niagara Falls on Nov 29 (Brownstein). One Common Egret remained from Sep 6 to 26 at Burnship Creek on Grand Island (Clark, Brownstein, et al). Three were also at Oak Orchard Swamp on Oct 7 (Brockner). One of the outstanding records of the year was a Snowy Egret, well seen from Goat Island at Niagara Falls on Sep 14 (Littles). A maximum of ten Black-crowned Night Herons was noted in October at Delaware Park in Buffalo (Brockner). The last Green Herons (12) were reported on the bird count Oct 18. No bitterns of either species were recorded from the region through the period. Whistling Swans were comparatively few as usual, the only records being nine on Oct 8 off Derby on Lake Erie (Larkin) and one Oct 8 and 15 on Lake Akron in Wyoming County (Rosche, Krayna, Rubach).

Spectacular describes the Canada Goose flight which began on Oct 1; many flocks, some numbering in the hundreds, were noted during the month. On Oct 18 flocks totaling 304 Blue Geese and 76 Snow Geese were seen to the west of the region in Ontario, but only one Snow Goose was noted that day in the region. This was at Lake Ontario, just east of the Niagara River mouth (Klabundes). On Oct 22 an immature Blue Goose was at Beaver Island on the south end of Grand Island (Woldman). The only Brant reported for the period were five on Oct 30 near Shadigee on Lake Ontario (Rue rep. Andrie). Good numbers of surface-feeding ducks moved through the region in October, especially Pintail, American Widgeon, and Green-winged Teal. Three Gadwall were observed on Oct 18 in the Oak Orchard Swamp area (Ulrichs). Canvasbacks were generally low in numbers, perhaps reflecting their very poor breeding season in 1959. Other diving ducks, particularly Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, all three species of scoters, and Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, were seen in very good numbers toward the latter part of the period. Of interest were the 130 White-winged Scoters reported by Bourne on Lake Erie in the Bay View-Athol Springs area Oct 12. The first King Eider to appear was recorded on Nov 22 opposite Grand Island on the west branch of the Niagara River (Axtells). After this date several more eiders, both adults and immatures, were observed at various points on the river.

Hawks — Owls: No unusual hawk flights were observed during the period. The first Rough-legged Hawk was noted on Oct 18 in northeastern Cattaraugus County, an unusual locality (Bourne et al). Nine were seen on Nov 8 along Lake Ontario between Fort Niagara and Point Breeze (Axtells). Bald Eagles were not reported. The last Osprey of the season was at Delaware Park Lake Oct 25 (Brockner, Thill). On Aug 27 a Turkey nest and 12 eggs were found in Humphrey Township in Cattaraugus County (Charles rep. Eaton). Two Common Gallinules, the last of the season, were reported from Java on Oct 24 (Rosche). American Coots were considerably below average in number in October.

It is interesting to observe that American Golden Plovers were absent from the plowed fields in which they are usually found on Grand Island in September and October. Yet they appeared in above normal abundance in Ontario along the north shore of Lake Erie. The first migrant of this species was reported on the mud flats at Delaware Park Lake in Buffalo Sep 13 (Brockner). Fourteen were seen near Basom in Genesee County Sep 27 (Drobits, Webb). They are seldom found far inland in our region. As many as 11 Ruddy Turnstones were on a gravel jetty off Bird Island in the Niagara River in late October. Three were last seen there Oct 31 (Nathan et al). Noteworthy was a Whimbrel reported from Cowlesville in Wyoming County on Sep 3 (Rosche, Krayna). The last Spotted Sandpiper to be seen was on Squaw Island, Buffalo, on Oct 17 (Andrie). A Solitary Sandpiper, very few of which have been seen this fall in the region, was reported by Brockner in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, on Oct 3 and 4. An interesting observation was the Purple Sandpiper which remained at Hamburg Park on Lake Erie Nov 20 to 22 (Bourne et al). This bird was so tame that the writer obtained some excellent photographs from about six feet distance. The last Pectoral Sandpipers (2) were reported from Java Lake Oct 24 (Rosche, Krayna). A White-rumped Sandpiper was at Hamburg Park on Oct 3 (Bourne). Bourne also saw 91 Sanderlings, an unusually large number for this shore, at the same place on Oct 8. The last migrant to be seen was at this park on Nov 26, a somewhat late date (Axtells et al). The phalarope flight was remarkable in the region this fall. Two Northern Phalaropes were on Longford Pond in southern Erie County Sep 20 and 21 (Rochester rep. Bourne); two others were on Chautauqua Lake Sep 21 (Raistrick rep. Beal), and one was in the gorge at Niagara Falls Nov 1 and 5 (Brownstein, Axtells). Several more of this species had been in this latter locality during the latter half of October. A Red Phalarope was in Delaware Park, Buffalo, from Oct 9 to 16 (Clark et al); one was on Longford Pond Oct 15 (Bourne), and another Red Phalarope was at Bay View on Lake Erie Oct 19 (Bourne). In addition several others were with Northerns in the gorge below Niagara Falls in mid-October. Other phalarope reports came from adjacent Ontario. An immature Parasitic Jaeger, apparently in poor condition, was seen by Bourne at Bay View Oct 15. Some of these birds which appear casually on Lake Erie seem to be in a weakened state, and several have been found dead.

The first Glaucous Gull was noted by Brownstein and King on Nov 24 at Niagara Falls, and the first Iceland Gull (*glaucooides*) was on the Niagara River at Buffalo Nov 26 (Woldman et al). Ring-billed Gulls remained through November in above

average numbers, and Herring Gulls had increased considerably as usual by the end of the month. But the highlight of the fall in this regard was the unprecedented concentration of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River between the Peace Bridge at Buffalo and the south end of Grand Island, several miles downstream. They began to increase markedly about the first week in November, and by the eleventh there were at least 10,000 in an impressive close-packed flock in the bay at the north end of Bird Island. Their chief food seemed to be the Emerald Shiner, a small fish which appears to have become very abundant at present in the river. By the latter part of the month a conservative estimate placed the numbers of Bonaparte's at 30,000 with the major concentration shifting downstream about a mile or so from Bird Island to the foot of Austin Street; below this many floated in large rafts downstream mostly nearer the Canadian shore of the river to the vicinity of the southern tip of Grand Island. From Nov 10 to 17 one to two immature Franklin's Gulls were noted at Bird Island and on the Niagara River below the Peace Bridge. On Nov 28 an immature Laughing Gull was reported on the river opposite Squaw Island (Brownstein, Schaffner, Clark). An adult Black-headed Gull was well observed by the Axtells on the Niagara River Nov 22 about opposite the foot of Austin Street, Buffalo. This bird was seen by many observers in the same vicinity and slightly farther downstream through the end of the period. The first Little Gull was seen Sep 14 on Lake Erie off Angola (Bourne). Thereafter none was seen until Bourne again reported one off Hamburg Town Park on Lake Erie Nov 6. From then on this species was a conspicuous sight among the great flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River below the Peace Bridge and also opposite Lewiston on the lower river. Among them were at least two in first winter plumage, a very rare sight in the region. An estimate for numbers of Little Gulls in the region on the Niagara River in November would be about seven with very possibly one or two more present. Another outstanding record was an immature Sabine's Gull in approximately the same locality as the Black-headed Gull and on the same day — Nov 22 (Nathan et al). This bird was well seen by many observers to the end of the period. Two immature Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared on the river opposite Squaw Island on Nov 24 (Andrle, Byron, Brownstein, King), were seen again on the next day, and one was noted by several observers to the end of the period. The first Forster's Terns, two individuals, remained at the foot of Austin Street from Oct 17 to 23 (Andrle et al). Common Terns remained late, the last being two immatures on Nov 29 in the Niagara River opposite Squaw Island (Brownstein, Rosche, Andrle). Also a solitary Black Tern was in the same vicinity to Nov 13 (Schaffner, Rosche et al). A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was recorded at Hamburg Oct 21 (Bourne). Short-eared Owls, usually found in November, were not present in their usual haunts in the region.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Eleven Common Nighthawks on Oct 8 at Hamburg were the last noted in the region. On the same day the last Chimney Swift was seen at the Peace Bridge (Clark, Miller). In spite of the warm September and October, flycatchers such as the Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, and the Wood Pewee seemed to leave at normal times or even sooner than usual. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed on Sep 8 thru 10 in Delaware Park, Buffalo (Clark, Miller). Another was seen Sep 3 near Java in Wyoming County (Rosche, Krayne). Two Horned Larks (*alpestris*) were noted Nov 22 near Java Lake (Rosche et al), and five were reported on Grand Island Nov 30 (Greene). On Aug 26 there were an estimated 1,000 Barn Swallows and 35,000 Purple Martins in the roost at Jamestown (Beal). Blue Jays appeared to be less numerous than usual in the region. Red-breasted Nuthatches also continued to be somewhat scarce. Carolina Wrens were reported from several localities and seemed to be regaining their numbers. A Mockingbird was observed on three occasions in Kenmore just north of Buffalo between Nov 10 and 27 (Dietrich). A very late record of a Catbird was one seen on Bird Island Nov 29 (Mitchell). Brown Thrashers were more common than usual in the fall migration in the region. There were an estimated 5000 Robins in the roost at Jamestown Aug 26 (Beal). Fairly good numbers of Swainson's Thrushes occurred in September and individuals were noted to mid-October. A late migrant Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported at Springville Nov 27 (True). The first Northern Shrike was seen Oct 31 at Athal Springs (Scont).

Vireos — Warblers: Several species of warblers arrived early. The first migrant Black-and-White Warblers (3) were seen in Delaware Park, Buffalo, on Aug 22 (Schaffner, Clark). Parula Warblers appeared in better numbers than for the past several years. Three Magnolia Warblers in Delaware Park on Aug 17

(Schaffner) were the first migrants of this species. The only Connecticut Warbler of the season was reported by Bourne Sep 19 near Chestnut Ridge Park. Several species of warblers remained into mid-October (Nashville, Cape May, Blackpoll) and were last reported on the Bird Count Oct 18. An Orange-crowned Warbler, uncommon in the region, was reported from Hamburg Oct 2 (Bourne) and another from near Java Oct 10 (Rosche et al). Three Magnolia Warblers were at Gainesville Oct 19 (Smith). A late Northern Waterthrush was observed by Eaton near Vandalia Oct 18, and the last Ovenbird was noted Oct 3 by him in the same locality. A Palm Warbler was at Bird Island on the remarkably late dates of Nov 13 (Brownstein et al) and Nov 27 (Mitchell, Andrie). A Yellowthroat was still at Burntship Creek on Grand Island Oct 25 (Clark).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A late record for Bobolink was two seen by Rosche and Blowers near Varysburg Sep 26. On Aug 26 there were an estimated 25,000 Red-winged Blackbirds at the Jamestown roost (Beal). The last Baltimore Oriole to be recorded was seen Sep 11 at Athol Springs (Csont). Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Aug 16 in Delaware Park were the first migrants reported (Brockner). Evening Grosbeaks (5) were first seen Nov 1 near Java (Wendlings). Thereafter from one to 30 were reported in many places in the region. Common Redpolls appeared in the first week of November and were noted in widespread localities after that. Approximately 250 were seen Nov 8 between Fort Niagara and Point Breeze along Lake Ontario (Axtells). Pine Siskins were recorded in small groups or singly from various places. A very early date for Red Crossbill was Sep 23 and 24 when one appeared at a feeder in Springville (Trues). One was again seen at the same feeder Oct 25 and 29 and also Nov 6 and 7. Eleven Red Crossbills were at Youngstown Cemetery Nov 8 (Axtells, Andries). Coggeshall reported a Grasshopper Sparrow Sep 12 and one Sep 14 near Elma. A very late? Henslow's Sparrow was well seen near Lake Akron in Wyoming County Oct 17 (Rosche, Krayna). Bourne observed a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the pond near Langford in southern Erie County on Oct 2. This is the first record for the region in many years. Slate-colored Juncos were unusually numerous in October, over 10,000 being reported on the Oct 18 Bird Count. Four Field Sparrows seen Nov 25 at Wilson (Brownstein, King) was an interesting record. A White-crowned Sparrow was reported from Jamestown Nov 8 (Beal) and another Nov 29 at Hamburg (Averys). Several White-throated Sparrows were also seen late in November at various localities. A Fox Sparrow was at Hamburg Nov 30 (Averys). The first Snow Buntings (10) appeared Oct 28 at Hamburg-on-the-Lake (Csont, Bourne). On Nov 8 some 4500 were seen in a number of flocks between Fort Niagara and Point Breeze (Axtells). On Nov 22 at Java Lake in Wyoming County 1000 were recorded by Rosche and other observers.

Corrigendum: The published account (**Kingbird**, Vol. 8, No. 4, page 114) of a Grasshopper Sparrow at Elma on Oct 1, 1958, should read Henslow's Sparrow.

Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo 11

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures continued sharply above normal during the last half of August and the first ten days of September, with the year's high of 98 being recorded on Sept. 9. The next ten days produced temperatures much below average with a minimum of 32 on Sept. 17. Close to average temperatures then prevailed until the middle of November. A cold wave which set in then produced a record low of 14 on the 18th. Rainfall was very light during the first six weeks of the period, but the "tail end" of a tropical hurricane produced heavy rain from Sept. 30 through October 2, and this brought a sharp temporary rise in the water level. October and most of November were drier than usual, with little snow during the latter month until the period of the 27th-29th when most of the month's eleven and a half inches fell.

The period birdwise was marked by a very good Canada Goose and Brant flight, a scarcity of Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Ruddy Ducks, and a good fall shorebird migration. The rarest birds recorded were the Marbled Godwit on Oct. 4 and 11 and the Western Kingbird on Sept. 6.

Loons — Ducks: An early Common Loon was seen Sep 17 at Manitou (Listman), and a high count of 188 was made Oct 25 at Hamlin (Dobson). Eight Red-throated Loons were seen Nov 8 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer). A single Red-necked Grebe was at Lighthouse Beach on Nov 28 (Listman, Kemnitzer). One Double-crested Cormorant was noted Oct 30 at Manitou (Listman), and three birds were seen Nov 8 along the east lakeshore (Kemnitzer). Two Common Egrets were at Braddock's Aug 16 (Schaffner et al), and one of these birds remained until Oct 3 (Listman). One bird was seen in Durand Aug 26 (Tetlow). A Least Bittern was at Ling Road Aug 22 (Starling, Listman).

A maximum count of 5000 Canada Geese was made Oct 11 along the west lakeshore (Dobson), and some 700 were seen at Mendon Ponds Nov 23 (Zeitler, Peters). A high count of 2000 Brant was made Oct 27 along the west lakeshore (Listman). Four Snow Geese were observed Oct 17 near Hamlin Park (A. Tanghe). Six Pintail were at Braddock's Aug 16 (Scheider et al), and 500 were seen Oct 18 at Manitou (Listman et al). Four Blue-winged Teal were noted Nov 3 at Manitou (Holland). Forty American Widgeon were at Salmon Creek Sep 19 (Starling et al), and 20 were at Mendon Ponds on Nov 10 (Peters et al). Two Shovelers were seen Sep 27 on the west lakeshore (Lloyd). Forty-two Wood Ducks were observed Sep 19 at Buck Pond (Listman), and there were three at Durand on Nov 22 (L. Moon). Some 2000 Greater Scaup were at Hamlin Park Nov 8 (Dobson). A Bufflehead was at Braddock's Aug 30 (R. Simons, Miller), and 38 were seen Nov 8 at Hamlin Park (Dobson). A King Eider was observed Nov 28 at Manitou (Kemnitzer, Listman). Three Surf Scooters Oct 19 at Manitou (Listman) and 12 Common Scoters Oct 25 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer) were the high counts on these two species. A Ruddy Duck was seen Aug 30 at Braddock's (G. O. S. hike). Eight Hooded Mergansers were noted Nov 16 at Manitou (Listman et al), and seven were at Mendon Ponds on Nov 23 (Zeitler, Peters).

Hawks — Owls: Two Turkey Vultures were seen Oct 10 near LeRoy (Kemnitzer). Twenty-five Red-tailed Hawks migrating at Braddock's on Aug 16 (Kemnitzer et al) is a large number for this area during the fall migration. A Red-shouldered Hawk was at Mendon Ponds on Aug 16 (Starling). Four Broad-winged Hawks were at Braddock's on Aug 16 (Listman et al), and four were seen near Cheshire the following day (Listman). A Rough-legged Hawk was observed at Manitou Oct 20 (Listman). Twenty-five were counted on Nov 11 migrating past Braddock's (Kemnitzer et al), and the species was rather common for the remainder of the month. A Bald Eagle was seen Oct 3 at Braddocks (Starling et al) was the only fall record. A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Manitou Sep 18 and 19 (Listman et al), at Irondequoit Bay Oct 4 (Kemnitzer et al), and at Hamlin Park Oct 11 (Dobson).

Thirty Semipalmated Plovers seen Aug 16 at Braddock's (Schaffner et al) was the season's high count for this species. There was a very good fall flight of Golden Plover, a high count of 183 being made Sep 4 in the fields west of Manitou (Listman). Eighty were still present in the area on Oct 3 (Listman), and one was seen at Manitou on Oct 24 (O'Hara et al). Fifty Black-bellied Plover seen Oct 10 at Salmon Creek and 18 Ruddy Turnstones observed Sep 5 at Manitou were both high counts (Listman). A Turnstone was still present at Manitou on Nov 28 (Meade et al). A Woodcock was noted at Manitou on Aug 30 (G. O. S. hike), and one was seen in Island Cottage Woods on Oct 18 (Lloyd). A Whimbrel was at Braddock's Sep 4 (Listman). Thirty Lesser Yellowlegs were there on Aug 16 (Kemnitzer et al). There was a Knot at Shore Acres Aug 22 (Starling et al), and seven were seen Sep 12 at Braddock's (Starling). The Purple Sandpiper was recorded Nov 3 and 24 at Braddock's, a single bird each time (Listman). Some 100 pectoral Sandpipers were seen Oct 2 near Shore Acres (Listman). Three White-rumped Sandpipers were observed Aug 16 on the west lakeshore (Scheider et al), and ten were present Nov 3 at Braddock's (Listman). Five Baird's Sandpipers were seen Aug 30 at Shore Acres (G. O. S. hike), ten were observed at Braddock's Sep 4 (Listman), and a late straggler was at Braddock's Nov 11 (Kemnitzer et al). Some 400 Dunlin were noted Oct 26 along the west lakeshore and ponds (Listman), 80 were seen Nov 14 at Float Bridge (Kemnitzer), and two were at Manitou Nov 28 (Meade et al). A count of 93 Short-billed Dowitchers was made at Shore Acres on Aug 22 (Starling et al), and 20 were there Sep 4 (Listman). Single Long-billed Dowitchers were at Shore Acres Sep 26 (Listman) and Irondequoit Bay Sep 27 (Kemnitzer). There were two at Long Pond Oct 11 (Listman). Three rather late Stilt Sandpipers were at the latter

locality on Oct 18 (Listman). One to two Western Sandpipers were at Manitou from Sep 4 thru 27, and a very late bird of this species was seen Nov 11 at Salmon Creek (Kemnitzer et al). The Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Braddock's on Aug 30 (Lloyd, MacRae). There was one at Salmon Creek on Sep 16, and on Sep 18 two were there (Listman). The Marbled Godwit was seen Oct 4 at Manitou (Listman) and a week later at Long Pond (Lloyd, Listman). Except for one bird on Aug 19, 1950 these constitute our only local records for the species in the last thirty years.

Sixty-two Sanderling were seen Sep 27 at the Irondequoit Bay outlet (Kemnitzer), 75 were observed along the west lakeshore Oct 29 (Listman), and one was seen Nov 26 at Float Bridge (Kemnitzer). A Red Phalarope was at Salmon Creek on Oct 5 (Listman), and there was a Wilson's Phalarope at Long Pond from Sep 20-27 (Tanghe et al). From one to three Northern Phalaropes were present from Sep 12 - Oct 5 from Long Pond to Salmon Creek, and a very late bird was seen Nov 11 at Round Pond (Kemnitzer et al). Few Bonaparte's and no unusual gulls were reported during the period. A Forster's Tern was present at Braddock's from Aug 30-Sep 5, and four were at Irondequoit Bay from Sept 27 - Oct 10 (Kemnitzer).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen Nov 16 at Manitou (Listman). Last year the same observer had seen a cuckoo of this species in almost the same spot on Nov 15. The Snowy Owl was seen at Braddock's Nov 21 (O'Hara et al) and at Kodak Park West Nov 30 (Leubner). There were occasional reports of Screech and Great Horned Owls.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A freshly killed Whip-poor-will was found on a road near Short Acres Sep 12, and another bird of this species invaded the Manger Hotel in downtown Rochester Oct 7 and was finally captured in the "Lilac Room" of the hotel where a meeting of women hair stylists had been sadly disrupted by the appearance of the bird. Seven Chimney Swifts were seen Oct 10 at Manitou (Listman), and on was noted Oct 19 at Pittsford by the same observer. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed Sep 20 at Mendon Ponds (G. O. S. hike). A very late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen in Durand Nov 22 (G. O. S. hike). Seven Eastern Kingbirds were noted Sep 12 near Shore Acres (O'Hara, Miller), and a Western Kingbird was carefully identified Sep 6 near Shore Acres by B. and A. Kemnitzer, Listman, Lloyd, and MacRae. This is the first county record, but the bird had been recorded once before near Sodus in Wayne County (Sep 19, 1953). All six species of swallows were at Braddock's Sep 19; the estimated numbers were Tree Swallow 150, Bank Swallow 10, Rough-winged Swallow 1, Barn Swallow 20, Cliff Swallow 100, and Purple Martin 10 (Listman et al). Five hundred Black-capped Chickadees were seen migrating at Braddock's Oct 10 (Listman). A Tufted Titmouse was observed Sep 12 at BANC; one was banded Oct 23 at Leubner's feeding station in Irondequoit and was still present at the end of the period, three were seen at Manitou Oct 24 (Listman), and up to six were frequenting the Sunderlin and McNeth feeders east of Irondequoit Bay from mid October until the end of the period. Four Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen in Highland Park Aug 18 (Starling), and about six birds were present in Durand at the end of the period. An early Brown Creeper was at Island Cottage woods Sep 2 (Schmanke). Twelve House Wrens were noted Sep 19 in brushy thickets near Salmon Creek (Starling). A Carolina Wren was observed Oct 31 at the Moon feeder in Irondequoit, and two more were present east of Irondequoit Bay during the last two months of the period. A Mockingbird was seen Sep 23 near Clarissa Street Bridge (Foster), and two birds were seen at intervals during October and November east of Irondequoit Bay. Robins became very scarce after the first week in November; one was in Durand Nov 22. Two Hermit Thrushes were still in Durand at the end of the period, and one was observed in Hamlin Park Nov 28 (Kemnitzer et al). Four Gray-cheeked Thrushes were seen Sep 19 in Island Cottage woods (Listman). Five Bluebirds were at Webster on Oct 23 (Kemnitzer); this species has made some recovery from its tragic low of a year ago. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen Sep 2 in Island Cottage woods where it had nested this year (Schmanke). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was noted Nov 29 at Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzer).

Water Pipits were rather scarce this fall, but six were seen Oct 2 west of Manitou (Listman) and two were at Manitou on Nov 28 (Meade et al). Two Bohemian Waxwings appeared among a flock of about 150 Cedar Waxwings in Durand on Nov 7 (Holland et al), and from one to four birds were present there for the rest of the month. A Northern Shrike seen Oct 29 at Braddock's (Listman) was the first report of the fall season.

Vireos — Warblers: There were three Solitary Vireos at Island Cottage woods on Sep 19 (Listman), and a Philadelphia Vireo was seen in Durand Sep 12 (O'Hara et al).

Among the more outstanding records of a very good fall warbler flight were three reports of single Orange-crowned Warblers: Oct 10 near Irondequoit Bay (Starling et al), Oct 24 at Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzer), and Oct 29 at Island Cottage woods (Listman). A Pine Warbler was noted Aug 18 in Highland Park (Starling), and there was a Connecticut Warbler in Island Cottage woods on Sep 20 (Dobson). A Yellowthroat was seen at Manitou on Nov 24 (Listman). Among the commoner warblers (a count of 23 Black-throated Green Warblers Sep 22 in Genesee Valley Park (Schmanke) and ten Wilson's Warblers Sep 19 along the west lakeshore were somewhat exceptional.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A Baltimore Oriole appeared at Gerry Leubner's feeding station in Irondequoit Nov 29. A full plumaged male Dickcissel was first observed Nov 9 at the Munsen feeding station in Penfield and was still present at the end of the period, during which time it was seen by many observers. Eleven Evening Grosbeaks appeared in Durand Nov 7 (Holland et al), and within a week or so flocks of 40 or more birds were seen at Fisher's (Holland et al) and along the east lakeshore (McNeth, Sunderlin). At the end of the period they were still present but in reduced numbers. The Pine Grosbeak was unreported. A very heavy flight of Common Redpolls occurred in late October, with 400 being recorded Oct 28 and 1000 on the 29th along the west lakeshore (Listman). During the last month of the period numbers had decreased, but small flocks could be found scattered throughout the area on most trips in the field. In these large migrating flocks were an undetermined number of Hoary Redpolls. Three of this species were positively identified Oct 29 and one on Nov 3 at Braddock's by Listman who felt that there was a fairly good representation of the rarer species in these flocks. In contrast to the large number of Redpolls present, Pine Siskins seemed rather uncommon, five on Oct 29 (Listman) being one of the few reports. A single Red Crossbill was seen Nov 23 near Spencerport (Listman). A Rufous-sided Towhee was present in Durand until Nov 22 (G. O. S. hike), and one appeared at Gerry Leubner's feeder in Irondequoit Nov 29 and 30.

A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was observed Oct 17 in a small marsh in Brighton (Starling); the observer believed that it was probably the subspecies *nelsoni* after a long and careful study under ideal conditions. A Field Sparrow was present at Manitou throughout October (Listman). Two White-crowned Sparrows were seen Nov 26 at the Kemnitzer feeder in Webster. White-throated Sparrows fairly swarmed during their normal migration period, but strangely enough, in contrast to last year, very few seemed to remain after the conclusion of the fall flight. Twenty Fox Sparrows at Island Cottage Oct 18 (Lloyd et al) and 12 Lincoln's Sparrows Sep 26 along the west lakeshore (Listman) were very good peak counts on these two species. A single Lapland Longspur Nov 21 (Listman) was the only record for this species. A flock of 20 Snow Buntings was observed Oct 24 at Manitou (O'Hara et al), and flocks of 500 were seen in the same area on Nov 3 and again on Nov 11 (Kemnitzer et al).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

September continued the warm and dry pattern. October was slightly cooler than normal, although killing frost held off until mid-month or, in some spots, until early November. October's precipitation almost made up for the prolonged drought. More than twice the normal amount of rain fell — half of it during the first week. November's temperatures and precipitation were near normal. There was no snow accumulation at Ithaca, but eight or ten inches were at Geneva on November 30.

In spite of the dry summer and early fall, water levels were high enough in some places (Keuka, Geneva, Montezuma — the latter controlled of course) to eliminate possibility of shorebirds. Ithaca's Big Hole had good conditions, however, and Sapsucker Woods Pond was the lowest ever, with resulting mud flats.

The goose population reached record numbers. Ducks, on the other hand, were scarce. John Morse comments on the increase in Canada Geese at Montezuma as

follows: "Whether this increase in use is due to an actual increase in the goose population or to freak weather which stopped large numbers of geese in this area that normally pass over is problematical." A Cackling Goose at Sapsucker Woods was our most outstanding bird for the period.

Evening Grosbeaks came early and in large numbers. A few Pine Siskins have appeared, but no sizeable flocks of Redpolls or Snow Buntings showed up. Wild fruits were neither scarce nor abundant this year.

Night migration was noted on September 26 at Watkins Glen and at Odessa on October 9. A big exodus of small birds occurred at Ithaca on September 10 and 11, with strong north to northwest winds.

Loons — Ducks: It was a good fall for Common Loons. Twenty-seven were seen off Sheldrake on Sep 22 (J. Wells), and Julian Shepherd estimated 1000 "dribbling" down Cayuga Lake the week of Nov 20. Red-throated Loons, however, were missing from Cayuga, but one appeared on Keuka Lake on Oct 13, the fourth record for that lake since 1946 (Orcutt). Single Horned Grebes were seen on Cayuga in early October, while Walker reported 27 of them on Nov 8 at the foot of Seneca. One report of Double-crested Cormorant: Nov 7, near Ithaca (Futuyma). Common Egrets remained in numbers at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge through September, with 41 being there on the 17th. The last date was Oct 2, when ten were seen (Morse). Two immature Black-crowned Night Herons were seen Aug 22 on the shore of Cayuga, and a rather late one appeared at the Horseheads Bridge on Oct 30 (Hood).

The period was noteworthy for reports of Whistling Swans. Twenty-five flew low over Paul Kelsey's house at Dryden on Oct 26. An adult and an immature were at Howland's Island on Nov 10 (Bauer) (Region 5) and may have been the same birds which were at Montezuma from Nov 12 on (Morse). One was seen off and on at Myers Point, east shore of Cayuga Lake, during November. An Australian Black Swan, undoubtedly an escapee, was at Montezuma off and on from Aug 27 to Oct 14.

Reporters from the whole area commented on the magnificent migration of Canada Geese (in contrast with that of ducks). About 150 Canada Geese remained on the lake opposite Keuka College for some time in mid-November. These birds came through early and in unusual numbers at Avoca. Up to 50 dropped in at Sapsucker Woods Pond daily from Oct 1 on, and Morse reported that the geese reached a peak of 1280 at Montezuma on Oct 30, in contrast with a peak of 350 in 1958. Most left on Nov 28 when nine inches of snow fell. Most remarkable was the presence, with the group on Sapsucker Woods Pond, of a **Cackling Goose**, from Oct 2 through Oct 17 (Ed—see field notes section, this issue). On Oct 22-24 104 Brant were counted at the south end of Seneca. A flock of Brant flew over Montezuma on Oct 30, and 26 were at the south end of Cayuga, also on Oct 30. One to three of these remained with the Stewart Park Mallards throughout most of November. There were few reports of Snow Geese this fall. Four Blue Geese (two adults, two immatures) turned up at Montezuma on Oct 30 and remained most of November. Morse speculates as to the possibility of the adults being the same birds that were there last year with one immature. A Blue Goose was shot on Cayuga the week of Nov 10.

More Black Ducks than in other years fed daily at Sapsucker Woods with the Mallards. A female Mallard-American Widgeon hybrid turned up there on Oct 27 (the one last year was a male). Wood Ducks reached a high count of 95 there on Sep 30, and 29 were still present on Nov 5. Few were seen after that date. In general, numbers of dabblers were down (except at Montezuma), and divers were very slow in coming in, much to the disappointment of duck hunters. A few Redheads, Ring-necks, Canvasback, and Scaup appeared on Cayuga the week of Oct 5-12, but there were almost no divers by the end of the reporting period on Seneca or on the Chemung River. There were five Buffleheads on Oct 20 at the south end of Cayuga (McIlroy), and the species was present on Seneca on Nov 5 (Ward). A female Oldsquaw was seen at the Hog Hole (s. w. corner of Cayuga) on Oct 25 (Sandburg). Some 200 White-winger Scoters were observed on Cayuga on Oct 2 (Sandburg), and five Surf Scoters were spotted at the south end of Cayuga on Oct 13 (Hoyt). This is the first report of Surfs on Cayuga in ten years, and the second report for the region in that period. Ward saw one Common Scoter on Seneca on Nov 5.

Again the waterfowl report from Montezuma was encouraging. Manager Morse reported that the fall duck migration started Aug 27 with an influx of American Widgeon and peaked at 26,450 on Oct 30 (of which 18,945 were Widgeon). This compares with a peak of 21,000 in 1958, of which 15,000 were Widgeon. Pintails also showed an increase this year, with 3,965 compared to 1,500 in 1958. Mallards and Blacks appeared in higher numbers at the start of the migration, but over-all use of the refuge showed a moderate reduction in the numbers of these two species. On the other hand, there was an increase in usage by diving ducks due to better feeding conditions in the main pool — an increase in aquatic plants in deeper sections. Some 500 Canvasback used this portion regularly in November — compared with the real scarcity on Cayuga and Seneca mentioned earlier.

Hawks — Owls: As usual, there was no marked hawk migration in this region, although Walker reported seeing more Red-tails and Sparrow Hawks than in other years. A Turkey Vulture appeared along Mills Road, northwest of Waterloo, on Sep 13. There were no Goshawk reports. Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported in the Ithaca area on Sep 14, Sep 16, and Oct 25. One was chasing black-birds at Sapsucker Woods on Oct 31. Red-tailed Hawks were in usual numbers; one very black one was noted on Avery Road (southwest of Dublin) by Walker on Oct 25. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen south of Branchport on Oct 29 (Spiker); it is rare there in fall migration. A Broad-winged Hawk flew over Sapsucker Woods on Sep 29 (A.A.A.). There were very few period reports of Rough-legged Hawks; the first one was at Ithaca on Oct 31. One or two Bald Eagles were usually to be seen at Montezuma, and other hawks were scarce there. A Pigeon Hawk was seen Oct 25 near Branchport (Spiker), our only report for the fall. Noteworthy were three reports of Peregrines: one over Penn Yan Marsh on Oct 7 (Orcutt), possibly a first record for the Keuka area; one at Hog Hole, Ithaca, on Oct 2 observed chasing shorebirds (Sandburg), and one over Connecticut Hill south of Ithaca on Oct 13 (Kelsey).

Ruffed Grouse were noted only rarely at Sapsucker Woods during the fall, but they were reported to be in better numbers around Ithaca than were Pheasants (P. Kelsey). In spite of a good hatch, Grouse were not easy to locate at Elmira in hunting season. Walker feels they have increased in the Geneva area. A small covey of Bobwhite was present all fall along North Triphammer Road, north of Ithaca, where the adults came regularly to corn supplied for them. It seems worthy of mention now that released **Wild Turkeys** appear to have survived for several years near Newfield. Eight of them were seen during the fall (fide P. Kelsey). Coot have not been noted on every visit to the south end of Cayuga, but 40 were present there on Nov 15 (Futuyama).

In spite of the dry summer several areas reported water too high during the fall for shorebirds. The continuing dike problems at Sapsucker Woods, however, resulted in extensive mud flats there for the first time and the opportunity to study shorebirds at close range (until the heavy rains of early October raised the water level). Semipalmated Plovers appeared there on Sep 11. Fifty or more Killdeer fed daily. Killdeer migration was noted at Elmira on Sep 27, with a last date of Nov 1. There were no reports of Golden Plover at Montezuma during this period. Two Black-bellied Plovers were seen on Sep 13. The Ruddy Turnstone on Oct 2 at Hog Hole was our only period report for this species. Mary Welles reported a large concentration of Woodcock along a one-mile stretch of road near Elmira on the early morning of Sep 2; the birds were flying up as the car lights hit them.

Common Snipe were noted at Sapsucker Woods Pond off and on from Aug 26 to Oct 19. One was seen Oct 29 at the Rte. 17 bridge over Newtown Creek near Elmira (Smith). Last date for the Spotted Sandpiper was Oct 3, and late date for the Greater Yellowlegs was Oct 24. Thirty Pectoral Sandpipers were seen at Montezuma on Aug 16 (Walker). Last date at Sapsucker Woods was Oct 19, and at Elmira Oct 29 (Smith). There were no reports of White-rumped or Baird's Sandpipers. Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers arrived at Sapsucker Woods on Aug 24, and the first Dunlin appeared on Oct 2. Six Short-billed Dowitchers at the Montezuma Refuge on Oct 15 and a Stilt Sandpiper seen by members of the Keuka Park Conservation Club at a marsh north of Canandaigua constituted the only period reports for these species. Sanderlings were first noted at Hog Hole, Ithaca, on Sep 21 (Gebhart). There were three reports of Northern Phalaropes: Sep 12 at Montezuma (Morse), one on Sep 21 at Hog Hole (Gebhart), and one on Sep 20 just north of Canandaigua (KPCC).

The first Great Black-backed Gull appeared on Cayuga on Sep 27 (D. McIlroy), and the highest number before the end of November was ten. This gull first appeared on Seneca on Nov 5 (Murden), and one was seen with Herring Gulls at the Horseheads dump on Nov 19. Of interest is the fact that the gulls were observed killing rats and eating them (Andrus). Our last date for Caspian Terns was Oct 2 when five were seen (McIlroy).

Both species of cuckoos were last seen Oct 13 at Stewart Park (Hoyt, McIlroy). A family of Barn Owls, first discovered on Jul 27 near Elmira, was seen off and on after that and photographed by Al Fudge. No other Barn Owls were reported. Screech Owls seemed scarce. Great Horned Owls were heard hooting regularly near Refuge headquarters at Montezuma. Barred Owls were present in Sapsucker Woods and were vocal at intervals. There was one report of the Long-eared Owl, along Baker Hill Road east of Ithaca in early November (L. Pearsall).

Goatsuckers — Starlings: Last date for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird was Sep 23 at the Sapsucker Woods Laboratory feeder. Kingfishers were unreported the last two weeks in November. Flickers were seen in remarkable numbers during the fall. They were abundant on Aug 26 on Mrs. York's hill at Elmira. There were large numbers around Ithaca on Sep 8 thru 10 and again during the third week of the month. Many were noted in the Rock Stream area all fall (M. Darling). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen at Montezuma on Sep 10 (G. Little) and at Romulus during November (E. P. Walker). The only report of the Red-headed Woodpecker was from Montezuma on Sep 10. There was no noticeable flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

There was a good migration of Eastern Kingbirds from Aug 15 on. Last date for the Phoebe was Oct 25. The Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported by Mrs. York from Elmira on Aug 26. Tree Swallows and Purple Martins both pulled out early from Sapsucker Woods, the Martins in mid-August and the Swallows by the end of that month. Five Tree Swallows were seen by Walker on Nov 14 near Waterloo. Blue Jays were still increasing at Geneva, where they were uncommon ten years ago (Ward). There were at least two pairs of Tufted Titmice in Geneva (Gambrell, Haubner) and at least one pair still on the campus of Keuka College; these are the two latest places in the region to have this species.

This year, in contrast to last, there is a Red-breasted Nuthatch flight, and at least four feeders in Ithaca have had one visiting regularly in November. House Wrens seemed even scarcer at the end of the summer than during the nesting season. A Winter Wren hung around Mrs. York's hill during part of October and several times was found in her "wine cellar." On Oct 23 I found a Carolina Wren on my sun-porch. I banded the bird, released it, and have not seen or heard it since (nor had I been aware of its presence before that date). Carolinas were absent at Keuka this fall, but one was seen in Waterloo on Oct 8 (Murden). They are now at two new stations in Elmira, and four pairs raised two broods each in the Watkins Glen area. This species appears now to be regaining the ground it lost several years ago, although it is not fully recovered at Ithaca.

Two Mockingbirds were still present at Esperanza, a mile north of Branchport, and one appeared at a feeder in Aurora on Oct 24 and was seen regularly the rest of the reporting period. Arthur Lane had a late Catbird, feeding on multiflora berries, until Nov 24. Other Catbirds seemed to be migrating in mid-September or perhaps just moving around conspicuously. A welcome report is of an abundance of Wood Thrushes noted on Mills' Road near Geneva on Sep 20 by Walker, who stopped counting when he reached 100. Hermit Thrushes were noted in good numbers at Elmira on Sep 25 (Smith). Dilger reported Gray-cheeks migrating on Sep 30 and Oct 1 at Ithaca. Swainson's Thrushes and Veeries were seen at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on Oct 13 (Hoyt, McIlroy). An immature Swainson's was found on Nov 16 by John Genung near Dresserville. Walker kept it until Nov 22 when it died.

Most parts of the region had encouraging (but cautious) reports on Bluebirds. Mrs. Van Duzer of Horseheads had groups of 10-15 from Sep 15 on. This is the location of the flock of 100 reported two years ago. At Ithaca there was one report of 12 and another of 20 during September. On the other hand, Walker emphasized the scarcity in the Geneva-Waterloo area. Both Kinglets were scarce in the Geneva area but seemed fairly abundant at Ithaca, and Ruby-crowns were "unusually numerous" at Keuka (Guthrie). Water Pipits were first noted by A. A. Allen on Oct 17. The only Northern Shrike report was of one at Odessa on Nov 26 (Strath),

and the lone Loggerhead observed was on Baker Hill Road, Ithaca, on Aug 23 (Hoyt). A flock of 1,000 Starlings hung around Sapsucker Woods the first week in September, and Mrs. Welles noted great flocks of juveniles in August and September near Elmira.

Vireos — Warblers: There was no marked vireo migration. There was a report of the Philadelphia Vireo at Sapsucker Woods on Sep 22 (Hoyt et al), and a rather late last date for the Warbling Vireo was Oct 4 at Waterloo (Walker).

The warbler migration was fairly good at Ithaca between Sep 20 and 23. They continued to trickle through, but most had left between Oct 12 and 19. In the Geneva area they were scarce, although a good Myrtle wave was noted at the Waterloo cemetery on Oct 3 and 4. Myrtles were much in evidence at Ithaca on Sep 24 and at Elmira on Sep 25 (Smith). The Orange-crowned Warbler (often missed) was seen in Ithaca the week of Oct 12. A late and most unusual report was of two Prairie Warblers spending several days (Nov 9-12) at Paul Kelsey's home just east of Dryden. A late Northern Waterthrush was found freshly killed under a window in Etna on Oct 21. Last date for the Yellowthroat was Oct 25 (Futuyma).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Huge flocks of blackbirds (and Starlings) were noted at Elmira in early September, and Redwings "by the millions" were seen at Geneva, Montezuma, and vicinity. On the other hand, Guthrie noted few Redwings in the Keuka area, where there was also just one record of the Rusty Blackbird. Rusties arrived at the Sapsucker Woods feeder on Sep 29, built up to a flock of 50-75 daily, and were still present in small numbers on Nov 30. At times they were joined by a few Cowbirds, Redwings, and Grackles. Last date for the Scarlet Tanager was Oct 4 at Waterloo and Oct 12 at Ithaca. Cardinals continued to increase at Elmira and Watkins Glen. An Indigo Bunting near Ithaca on Oct 18 (Futuyma) seems late enough — but what does one think of one spending the week of Nov 10-17 at the residence of E. Bishop in Alpine, where it even sat on the windowsill for careful identification?

I have a great stack of Evening Grosbeak arrival dates — the earliest was a flock over Connecticut Hill on Oct 15 (Kelsey). From Oct 29-31 they poured into the region and strangely enough went right to feeders in spite of an abundance of box elder seeds everywhere. Elmira was the only place to report Purple Finches in good numbers — in late September and early October. There were scattered reports elsewhere. Redpolls had not moved into the region by the end of the period, except for a small flock at Paul Kelsey's (Dryden) on Nov 30. Pine Siskins were being regularly reported, and a flock of 50 was observed feeding on red cedar seeds at Avoca on Oct 21 and thereafter (Carter). A few spent November at Keuka, and they have been seen in Elmira, Ithaca, and E. Webster. Goldfinches had young in several nests at Sapsucker Woods the first week in September. Slate-colored Juncos appeared in numbers around Odessa on Oct 19 (Strath). Tree Sparrow first dates are Oct 9 at Elmira (Smith), Oct 30 at Ithaca, and Nov 5 at the Laboratory feeder. Chipping and Field Sparrows were migrating in numbers on Oct 13 at Burdett (Bardeen).

White-crowned Sparrows were scarce at Keuka and Penn Yan; far fewer were banded there than in other falls. Arrival dates were Oct 1 at Ithaca and Oct 3 at the Sapsucker Woods Laboratory feeder. Some 20-24 were seen at Odessa on Oct 19. White-throated Sparrows had a good migration at Waterloo, and they first appeared at the Ornithology Laboratory feeder at Ithaca on Sep 16. Fox Sparrows were also in better than usual numbers at Waterloo; the last dates were Nov 12 at Elmira and Nov 19 at Lane's feeder near Ithaca. There were more reports than usual of the Lincoln's Sparrow. The species was observed on Mills Road, Waterloo, on Oct 4 and at Etna on Sep 18 and Oct 4. Two Lincoln's spent a week at the Laboratory of Ornithology feeder after Sep 27, where many observers had a chance to get acquainted with this sometimes elusive sparrow. The Lapland Longspur was first seen on Oct 18 (Futuyma), and Snow Buntings appeared on Oct 25 at Ithaca (Sandburg). The latter species also appeared on Alpine Road, Odessa, on Nov 18, but there were no good flights as of the end of the period.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Weatherwise the period can be characterized as decidedly wet and warm, a drishy September and November temperatures averaging near normal notwithstanding. Weather records from Broome County Airport indicate total precipitation nearly eight inches above normal for the period. Snow was an insignificant part of that total. The first trace of snow fell Oct 18 but not until Nov 29 was there any appreciable amount of snow on the ground. There was a cool spell of about one week duration in mid-September when night temperatures dropped into the thirties, but the first real frost didn't come until Oct 18. The first really authentic cold snap came Nov 17 and 18 when the minimum temperature reached eleven degrees.

The relatively warm weather seems to have slowed the fall migration to some extent in spite of a relatively poor wild fruit crop. Some of the more prominent records which seem to point this way are a Hermit Thrush and a Baltimore Oriole in late November and a Bobolink on Oct 1. Perhaps the most spectacular of these late stragglers was the Green Heron on Nov 15. An apparent contradiction is the early arrival of some of the winter birds, particularly Tree Sparrows and Evening Grosbeaks which come in strength, but if the wild seed crops to the north of us are no better than here we would have a reasonable explanation. The relative abundance of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the Binghamton area might be related to the heavy crop of white pine seeds in the area, the major exception to the poor seed crop noted above. This speculation is made all the more tempting by the lack of both the Nuthatches and the heavy pine seed crop in the Cortland area.

Loons — Ducks: No Horned Grebes and few Pied-billed Grebes were reported during the period. Only occasional Great Blue Herons were reported; the last one Nov 29 at Sherburne (R. & S. White). Three Common Egrets at Campville, west of Endicott, Sep 7 were the only ones reported (J. Doren, L. Hevey). Our last "normal" Green Heron was at Sherburne Sep 27 (R. & S. White) but a remarkably late one was at Guilford Nov 15 where it was observed from a distance of about 15 feet (R. & S. White). Several people reported Canada Geese to be especially abundant, but they seldom had specific, dated reports to back up their impressions. They were first reported at Vestal Oct 2 (Twomey), seemed to reach a peak in numbers from Oct 9 to Oct 14 then passed through in smaller, but still considerable, numbers until the last ones, a flock of twenty, were reported Nov 29 over Chenango Bridge (R. & H. Hock). A fairly late Wood Duck was at Chenango Valley State Park Nov 1 (R. & M. Sheffield). A single Oldsquaw was at Norwich Nov 26 (R. & S. White). On Oct 14 a flock of 35 or more Common Scoters, an unusual species in the region, spent the day on a pond near Nodwich (R. & S. White). The sexes were about equally represented.

Hawks — Owls: Although no distinct hawk migration was noted they were noticeably more common during October than during the rest of the period. The lack of Broad-winged Hawks noted in the spring continued as only one was recorded, that one Sep 9 at Maine (J. Beaver). One Rough-legged Hawk was recorded at Summer Hill, in Cortland County, Nov 15 (Mulholland). Marsh Hawks were first recorded since spring on Oct 3 near Binghamton (R. & J. Saunders). Our latest Osprey was reported Oct 26 over Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield). Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasants were reported to be fairly plentiful by hunters. A Turkey was seen near Windsor, where there has been some state stocking activity, in late August (E. Mroz). An unusually large flock of over a hundred Killdeer was seen east of Mt. Upton Oct 11 (H. Wisner) and on the same day another flock of 28 was seen near Johnson City (L. Bemont). Our last reported one was at Unadilla Oct 28 (H. Wisner). A Black-bellied Plover, an unusual species in this region, was near Johnson City Oct 11 (L. Bemont). American Woodcock seemed especially plentiful during the hunting season (M. Leslie). A Common Snipe at Norwich Oct 28 (R. & S. White) was the only one reported during the period. On Aug 30 seven or more Upland Plover were at the Broome County Airport (R. & M. Sheffield). Solitary Sandpipers were at Oneonta Oct 23 (J. New). Greater Yellowlegs were surprisingly common for this region from Oct 18 to Nov 13 during which time close to 50 individuals were reported from Norwich, Oneonta and the Binghamton area. The only one reported earlier was at Sherburne Sep 27 (R. & S. White). On Oct 4 four Pectoral Sandpipers were at Sherburne (R. & S. White) and

on Aug 16 and 30 three or four Least Sandpipers were at the South Otselic Fish Hatchery (R. & S. White). Herring Gulls first were reported from Campville on the rather late date of Nov 8 (L. Bemont). Ring-billed Gulls have been noted on plowed fields in large flocks "all fall" around Cortland (J. Gustafson) but were first found in the Binghamton area Nov 15 at Chenango Valley State Park (R. & M. Sheffield). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo killed itself against a window near Binghamton Oct 2 (R. & M. Sheffield) and a Black-billed Cuckoo was still at Choconut Center Sep 27 (L. Bemont).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A late Nighthawk was at Endwell Sep 23 (L. Bemont) and our last Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at Endicott Sep 27 (A. Topping). On Sep 20 a Flicker was captured and banded near Choconut Center on which all or part of three primaries in each wing were the salmon pink of the western Red-shafted Flicker, but which in other respects was a normal Yellow-shafted Flicker (L. Bemont). Our last Flicker was at Choconut Center Oct 11. Sapsuckers were scarce during migration. There were several reports of a Blackbacked Three-toed Woodpecker, all apparently referring to the same bird, in the Oneonta area around Aug 28 (J. New). Our last Kingbird was at Choconut Center Aug 30 (R. & M. Sheffield) and our last Phoebe at Chenango Valley State Park Oct 19 (R. & M. Sheffield). A flock of 50 to 75 Horned Larks was found near Mt. Upton Oct 11 (H. Wisner). A mixed flock of migrant Bank, Barn and Cliff Swallows was at Cincinnatus, in Cortland County, Aug 30 (R. & S. White). A flock of a dozen Cliff Swallows was still at Norwich Sep 18 and 19 (R. & S. White). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Chenango Valley State Park Aug 29 (R. & M. Sheffield) but there were no more reported until Oct 11 at Gilbert State Park, near Oneonta, (R. & S. White). From the latter date until the end of the period they seemed quite common around Oneonta (J. New) and Binghamton. Two Brown Creepers at Norwich Aug 23 were probably from the local breeding population (R. & S. White). They were next reported Nov 8 from the Binghamton area and were more or less regularly reported to the end of the period. A House Wren at Choconut Center Oct 4 seemed rather late (L. Bemont). Two or three Winter Wrens seen near Newark Valley Oct 16 were our first (F. Linaberry, H. Marsi, V. Misner). A Carolina Wren was in the southern part of Binghamton Oct 19 (H. Marsi). Catbirds were last reported Oct 4 and Brown Thrashers Sep 27. Robins were reported more frequently than usual during the latter half of November. A Hermit Thrush was seen just north of Binghamton Nov 30 (R. & J. Saunders) and a Swainson's Thrush was at Chenango Valley State Park Oct 19 (R. & M. Sheffield). Bluebirds continued to please with respectable numbers. A flock of 15 or more stayed around Choconut Center through the first week of October with smaller numbers remaining until Oct 26 (R. & M. Sheffield) and at Deposit a flock of nine was noted Oct 3 (S. Wilson). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets at Choconut Center Sep 27 (L. Bemont) seemed rather early, especially since Ruby-crowned Kinglets, usually the earlier of the two species in the fall, were first reported Oct 3 at Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield). Some stragglers of the latter species were still present in late November, one at Maine Nov 26 (J. Beaver) being the last. A flock of 20 or more Water Pipits seen in the Binghamton area Oct 26 (R. & M. Sheffield) were the only ones reported. No Shrikes were reported during the period.

Vireos — Warblers: Two Yellow-throated Vireos at Binghamton Oct 17 (R. Hock) were quite late. Two Red-eyed Vireos at Endwell Sep 14 were our last (Gendle). The warbler migration passed virtually unnoticed. Only Myrtle and Black-throated Green Warblers were reported in any numbers. Some of the more reasonable last dates: Black and White — Sep 10 at Norwich (R. & S. White), Tennessee — Sep 20 at Choconut Center (L. Bemont), Nashville — Sep 19 at Maine (J. Beaver), Magnolia — Sept 27 at Choconut Center (L. Bemont), Black-throated Blue — Sep 10 at Norwich (R. & S. White), Myrtle — Oct 26 at Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield), Black-throated Green — Oct 4 at Choconut Center (L. Bemont), Yellowthroat — Oct 17 at Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield) and Red-start — Oct 11 (very late) at Gilbert State Park (R. & S. White).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A very late Bobolink was reported at Unadilla Oct 1 (H. Wisner). Our last reported Red-winged Blackbird was at Norwich Nov 29 (R. & S. White), but late November records were also obtained at Choconut Center and Unadilla. A Baltimore Oriole was on the west side of Binghamton from Nov 24 to Nov 31 (Lewis, Jordan, Carpenter). Cardinals seemed to be spreading out in Cortland County. They have been seen this fall at Little York, McGraw and Otisco

Valley when they have previous been reported only from the city of Cortland within the county. Evening Grosbeaks were first reported at Oneonta Oct 25 (J. New) and next at Maine Oct 30 (J. Beaver). They were fairly common almost from the beginning and by about the middle of November they were making frequent, if not regular, appearances at feeders. At Deposit trapping did not start until Nov 22, but 40 of them were banded by the end of the period (S. Wilson). There were a few Redpolls reported, usually single birds in flocks of Tree Sparrows. The first was at Highland Lake Oct 14 (E. Austen). A flock of 25 White-winged Crossbills, the only ones so far reported, was seen near Oneonta Nov 25 (J. New). Rufous-sided Towhees seemed especially common in migration. The last ones were seen Oct 17 at Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield). A Vesper Sparrow reported at Unadilla Oct 16 (Shaver) was our last. Slate-colored Juncos moved into Endwell Oct 3 (L. Bemont) but have been only moderately plentiful. A single Tree Sparrow at Choconut Center Oct 26 (R. & M. Sheffield) seemed very early but within a week roadside thickets were full of them. White-crowned Sparrows were present from Oct 3 to Oct 26 and were only moderately common. White-throated Sparrows arrived Sep 19 at Maine (J. Beaver) and were mostly gone after Oct 31, but a few stragglers remained through November. A few Fox Sparrows were present at Choconut Center from Oct 26 thru Nov 7 (R. & M. Sheffield) but were unreported elsewhere. Lincoln's Sparrows were found in some numbers at Maine Sept 19 (J. Beaver).

710 University Avenue, Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

The latter half of Aug continued hot and dry with occasional thunder storms and no major migrational movements. Sep was similarly dry (two inches less than normal rainfall) and warm without major wind shifts until Sep 12-20 when west and northwest winds triggered wave after wave of migrant landbirds, shorebirds, dabbling ducks, and the last of the swallows. The very wet conditions of Oct contrasted sharply with the dryness of Aug and Sep; in the first two weeks of Oct five-plus inches of rain fell and by the end of the month a total of 7.15 inches, twice the normal amount, had fallen. This converted marshes and streambeds that had dried up and vegetated to near-flood conditions. Oct was quite warm to the first frost on Oct 19 and generally cool thereafter. Steady northwest winds Oct 17-20 induced a fine waterfowl flight, mainly geese, dabblers, and mergansers, but sorely deficient in diving ducks. Nov extended the wet and cold of Oct (almost five inches of precipitation with 16.6 inches of snow). Sharp frosts in the first week of Nov initiated the expected blackbird-sparrow-dabbler exodus, a movement given further impetus by low temperatures (16° and 17°) on Nov 17-18. The wet conditions and early freeze-up sealed many marshes quite early and late Nov half-hardies usually frequenting such places were scarce. A 10-inch snowfall Nov 27-28 produced a rush of half-hardies, especially lcterids, to feeders.

Early Oct mild weather contributed to abundant insect life and late swallows and flycatchers. Conifers, weedy plants, and berry-bearing bushes produced bumper crops. The four (Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep) months of dry weather produced a natural draw-down of local marshes with abundant weed growth along the margins; these weedy, seed-laden perimeters became favorite feeding grounds of ducks, sparrows, and blackbirds. These natural draw-down conditions were comparable to draw-down pond-management practiced by the N. Y. S. Conservation Dep't. at Howland's Island Game Management Area. There the 30-acre Headquarters Pond was drained in Oct 1958, allowed to dry out and grow up to smartweed — 5-foot specimens! — thru the past summer, to be reflooded in late Sep this year. The resulting abundance of food attracted thousands of ducks and hundreds of geese to this one pond, an example of concentrations obtainable thru careful, studied management.

Positive aspects of the fall movement include 1) an extremely heavy sparrow-junco-finch flight, reinforced in Nov by a wave of winter finches (q. v.), 2) fine shorebirding with high counts and notable variety (32 species), 3) a heavy Brant-Canada Goose flight (the chief talk of local waterfowl hunters), 4) late dates for many early fall migrants (terns, swallows), 5) early northerners (Glaucous Gull,

Tree Sparrow, Snow Bunting), 6) above-normal numbers of warblers and flycatchers, and 7) increased Accipiter and Buteo counts. An influx of resident southern species occurred in late Oct and early Nov with more Cardinals at Lacona, Sandy Pond, Rome, and Oneida, Tufted Titmouse at Baldwinsville (Bisdee) and Skaneateles (Hiscock), Carolina Wren at Selkirk Shores State Park (Evans), and scattered Red-bellied Woodpeckers (q. v.). Singles of Northern Shrike (early Nov) and Snowy Owl (Nov 15, Sandy Pond - Spofford) hint at possible irruptions this winter.

Negatively speaking, 1) the extremely poor counts of diving ducks, lower than last year and most marked in the Aythya group, and 2) the low numbers of gulls and terns engendered abundant comment.

Regional rarities for the period show a distinct northeast or coastal element — Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Parasitic Jaeger, Kittiwake, Dovekie; this is especially remarkable in view of the scarcity of pre-disposing northeast storms. Other finds include Avocet, Prairie Warbler, and Hoary Redpoll.

N. B. In the summary below, the following initials will be used: HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; SP and SPI — Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park, west of Pulaski.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: first migrants Sep 26 (late) high count is 40 Nov 8 near Texas. Red-throated Loons were scarce and the only Red-necked Grebe reported was Nov 3, SSSP (Evans). Horned Grebe: remarkably late this year; not one reported prior to Oct 31. Pied-billed Grebe: a dead one found at the Syracuse TV towers Oct 3 was a distinct change from the dead small warblers and thrushes there; numbers low thru entire fall.

Common Egret: 11-35 noted thru Sep and Oct with last date Oct 24, one, at HIGMA; up to four in a small heron roost at TRGMA; no other white herons noted. Black-crowned Night Heron: an immature albino of this species with diffuse streaking noted Oct 4 HIGMA (K. Thorpe).

Whistling Swan: two at SSSP in the first week of Nov and two at HIGMA the middle ten days of Nov are the only records. Canada Goose: a superb fall flight with first arrivals on Sep 13 (early); major movements Oct 17-20 and the first week of Nov; counts of up to 1000 were attained where 100 are considered unusual (Rome, Oneida, southern Madison County, Green Lakes State Park); many farm ponds and small marshes had groups of 20-60 loafing thereabouts and flocks of 65-100 still lingered to early Dec; the flight at HIGMA and Sandy Pond seemed definitely up with 1000 Canadas at HIGMA Oct 28; apparent individuals of the hutchinsi (Oct 11) and minima (Nov 22) races noted at HIGMA. Brant: 2200 along Sandy Pond south to Texas plus some 4000 waterfowl, many probably Brant, beyond identification range were noted Oct 18; flocks of 20-60 were frequent there and at Oneida Lake (max. 400), Beaver Lake, and HIGMA; a few stragglers (cripples?) present to the end of the period. Blue Goose: an adult stayed with Canada Geese Oct 13-16 HIGMA (Bauer); nine adults noted flying south over SSSP Nov 3 (Evans) are most unusual. Snow Goose: up to 60 on Oneida Lake in the last week of Nov.

Mallard and Black Duck: fall counts in the thousands with peaks of 2600 and 2400 respectively Oct 11-Nov 22 (Ernst, Taormina). Of interest was a flight of 4000 dabblers, mostly Blacks, Mallards, Pintails, and Teal on Oct 18 off Sandy Pond; at least 3000 of these birds were noted the same day in restive rafts on wind-crazed Mexico Bay with a continual stream of ducks from the north joining the wave-bounced birds and a like stream departing west toward Oswego. Gadwall: seen at Lake Ontario but extremely scarce all fall with no HIGMA count of this species above 10 (Bauer). Baldpate: numerous Sep and Oct flocks 100-600 but persistently outnumbered by the Blacks and Ballards, a ratio quite in contrast to the surfeit of Baldpates at Montezuma NWR just to the west. Green-winged Teal: peak count is 700, Oct 11, HIGMA; small numbers present to Nov. 30. Blue-winged Teal; fall counts good (up to 500/day); rapid fall-off thru Oct; last date is Nov. 3, (early) Beaver Lake. Wood Duck: counts of 60-360 thru Oct with peaks of 300, Tully, and 350, HIGMA but scarce thru entire fall along Lake Ontario (Weeks, Scheider).

Diving ducks have been persistently scarce and, aside from Goldeneye and merganser counts, flights have been nil. The brunt of the hunting toll this fall fell on the dabblers, Brant, Goldeneye, and Scaup, evidence of the scarcity of the more desired Redheads and Canvasbacks. Redheads: counts ranged from 12-60 thru Oct and early Nov; none seen at Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake where normally

hundreds gather. Mr. Laible, the caretaker there, indicates that he knows of none bagged by hunters in the Bridgeport area. Canvasback and Scaup: extremely scarce throughout the fall migration; Scaup counts along Lake Ontario were 20-300, while Canvasbacks were nearly absent; high counts of 4000 and 1000 respectively, both from Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake for a few days in early Nov, but thru the remainder of Nov there the counts ranged from 200-400; the rest of the lake was woefully deficient in birds and the pattern of duck migration there appears to be changing; this year concentrations of 400-600 birds would stay for a few days in favored bays where formerly they rafted up by the thousands for weeks; arrival dates are Canvasbacks Oct 11, Greater Scaup Sep 13 (early), and Lesser Scaup Sep 26.

Goldeneye: first noted in the Oct 18 Sandy Pond flight; late Oct and Nov counts of 200-400 from both Lake Ontario and the south shore of Oneida Lake; the regular absence of this species, mergansers, and both Scaup from the entire north shore of Oneida Lake might point to a general loss of food, both plant and animal, from that sector. Bufflehead and Oldsquaw: arrival dates of Oct 17 and 10 (early) respectively; counts of 50 and 10 respectively (both low) and no late Nov Oldsquaw flight noted. Scoters had a moderately good flight, as usual most marked along Lake Ontario, but Surf Scoter (four) were reported from Beaver Lake Oct 23, and a White-winged Scoter crash-landed on a lawn in Dewitt, Oct 16; arrival dates are White-winged Sep 13, Surf Oct 18, Common Oct 4; range and peak figures are White-winged- 20-300, Surf- two to nine, Common- one-25, all present to end of period. Ruddy Duck: a female, Aug 25, is an early arrival; very scarce thru fall with usual counts one-15, with a peak of 62, Oct 23, Beaver Lake. Hooded Merganser: a good flight in the western third of the region with a peak of 108 Nov 7 but scarce at Sandy Pond and Oneida Lake. Red-breasted Merganser: flock counts low (25-500) thru Oct; a heavy flight Nov 8 with 5000 near Texas and 3000 west of Oswego the same day (Weeks).

Hawks — Owls: Fall hawk counts definitely better than average, notably amongst migrant Accipiters and wintering Buteos, a source of delight to local devotees. Small hawk flights noted Sep 7, 12, and 26 and Nov 8 at Sandy Pond. Turkey Vulture: last noted Oct 11, HIGMA. No Goshawks reported. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: noted with fair frequency (one-four/day) in small hawk flights along Sandy Pond; Nov reports about three times the usual figures. Red-tailed Hawk: Nov counts indicative of possibly high wintering population with 26, Nov 1, in Lysander Township (Cade) and 20, Nov 8, in northern Cayuga County (Spofford). Red-shouldered Hawk: last noted Nov 7, Beaver Lake. Rough-legged Hawk: arrival date Oct 25, one, HIGMA; noted in numbers (three-seven/day) thereafter with five migrating down Sandy Pond dunes Nov 8 and up to seven/day in the mouse-rich lowlands from Bridgeport to Baldwinsville. Osprey: scarce (one-two/day); protracted flight with the last one, Oct 28, late. Peregrine: an adult female Oct 4 and a dead immature Oct 18, both SPI, are the only reports. Pigeon Hawk: 12 reported, all but two along Lake Ontario, the latest Oct 11 (Spofford). Sparrow Hawk: late Nov counts up to six/day, distinctly above average.

Ruffed Grouse: numbers definitely down from past two falls. Bobwhite: a hen with a single downy chick seen Sep 3 (late) at HIGMA; several wild broods reared from two-year-old stock birds there.

Fall shorebirding produced good numbers and stellar variety; low lake levels at Lake Ontario created productive conditions at beaches normally frequented by few shorebirds; similar low levels at many local marshes and Onondaga, Oneida, and Delta Lakes attracted their share of shorebirds and after Sep 20 drained pools at HIGMA were particularly favored. The heavy Oct rains flooded many low, shorebird-rich marshes but formed an equal number of field and pasture pools which held transient Snipe, Pectoral Sandpipers and both Yellowlegs but little else. Of note were double peaks of counts in shorebirds — estimates of 100 per species and 600 individuals/day in late Aut to mid-Sep, then a sharp drop thru Sep to early Oct when shorebirds were again noted in the hundreds; this occurred at least percentagewise in almost all shorebird areas and did not seem to be related to cold fronts or wind shifts, but there was a suggestive species shift.

Semipalmated Plover: maximum of 90, Aug 30, SP; groups of 10-15 thru Oct with one, Nov. 1, SPI, the last. Piping Plover: singles noted along SP Sep 5 and 26 and Oct 4 (late). Golden Plover: one - three noted on six occasions between Aug 20 and Oct 4; actually very scarce in comparison to the heavy flight to the west of the Region and in view of the many observers checking plowed field, golf courses,

and the like for similar local concentrations. Black-bellied Plover: high of 22, Sep 12; maximum Oct count 12 (low), Oct 18; last seen Nov 8, SPI. Ruddy Turnstone: counts of 20-33 thru late Aug and first two weeks of Sep; last noted Oct 4.

Common Snipe: groups of six to 45 noted thru Sep; small flocks (12-15) thru Oct; **no** Nov records. Whimbrel (Hudsonian Curlew): recorded only as singles, Sep 12, SP, and Sep 15, Bridgeport. An Upland Plover Sep 24 near Phoenix and a Solitary Sandpiper Oct 11, HIGMA, are both very late; the Solitary Sandpiper flight was prolonged and with low counts (one-four/day). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs: peak figures 15-25, Oct. 3-18, and 10-40, Aug 19-Oct 12, respectively; last noted on Nov 21, one, and Oct. 28, one respectively, both HIGMA. Red Knot: one to seven noted to Sep 14 along Lake Ontario; also noted at Sylvan Beach Sep 2-13 and two at Onondaga Lake Aug 19-20; a good (for Knots) early flight.

Pectoral Sandpiper: counts of 20-45 Aug 20 to Sep 15, then very scarce (four to 12) thru to the 2nd week of Oct when groups of 25-90 were found; last date Nov 7, one; a similar pattern was detected in the Lesser Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper (q.v.) flight. White-rumped Sandpiper: quite scarce this season in contrast to the other "peep"; a few scattered Aug records, **no** Sep records and the peak count is five at SPI Nov 8, late for that number. Baird's Sandpiper: 20 noted between Aug 19 and Sep 16; a complete gap exists between this early flight and two remarkably late birds — Oct 24, one, HIGMA, and Nov 8, one, SPI, the latter a record late date. Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper): first seen Sep 7, one; scarce thru the remainder of Sep and early Oct; maximum of 160, Oct 18, when flocks of this species were noted flying south over Routes 3 and 11; last recorded Nov 15, three, SPI, rather early. Long-billed Dowitcher: singles only, north of Sandy Pond Aug 30 and Sep 7. Stilt Sandpiper: the good Aug flight (three-four/day) continued into the first week of Sep; from Sep 13 to Oct 13 not a single Stilt Sandpiper was observed; then five to 11 noted until departure date Oct 17, HIGMA; why this double peak? — immatures vs. adults? Least and Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling: top figures of 125 Sep 5, 250 Sep 7, and 360 Sep 5 respectively, with best counts along Lake Ontario, Onondaga Lake, and HIGMA; departure dates as follows — Oct 17, HIGMA, Oct 25, Sylvan Beach, and Nov 11, SPI, all late but no record dates. Western Sandpiper: six noted between Aug 19 and Sep 7, none thereafter; it was most unusual not to see any in the latter half of Sep and their complete absence from the Oct wave of shorebirds is inexplicable.

As usual, autumn turned up intriguing rare shorebirds, thus — Purple Sandpiper: two, Nov 8, SPI (16 happy observers), the third record in six years. Buff-breasted sandpiper: one, Sep 14-18, SPI (Scheider, Hoyt et al, Paquette, Evans), the second record in three years. Hudsonian Godwit: five, Oct 4, SPI (Evans), the second record in seven years. Avocet: one, Aug 29, Verona Beach (Carpenter), the first noted in the Region. Also of note was a small Northern Phalarope flight with nine observed between Sep 14 and 18 along Lake Ontario, Sandy Pond, and on a farm pond near Texas (Evans, Paquette, Hoyt et al); a single, Aug 22, Onondaga Lake (Rusk) is unusual; no Oct phalarope records; a group of five (sp?) flew by SPI Nov 16 (Spofford).

Parasitic Jaeger: an adult Parasitic noted Oct 18 at SPI (Scheider); a dark-phase bird (sp?) noted Sep 6 off SSSP (Evans). Glaucous Gull: a first year bird, Nov 1, SPI, is very early. Great Black-backed, Herring, and Ring-billed Gulls: all tallies remarkably low this fall, noted along eastern Lake Ontario, at Oswego, and on Onondaga and Oneida Lakes; maxima are 25 Nov 14, 700 Nov 1, and 2000 Aug 26 respectively with average counts this fall 10, 200, and 500 respectively; since typical counts would be 40, 2500, and 4000 per species, the drop in numbers is obvious; many dead Ring-billed Gulls, both adult and immature, were noted at Sandy Pond and in several plowed fields south of Oneida Lake (23 dead birds in one field) — reason???? Bonaparte's Gull: very scarce this season; maximum is 20 at Sylvan Beach (Whites); peak number at Sandy Pond is **two** and there were no Nov records of them from Lake Ontario. Kittiwake: an immature observed for 20 minutes with Ring-billed Gulls at SPI Nov 1 (Scheider) is a most unusual inland record, even more so in view of the lack of explanatory northeast storms.

Forster's Tern: rather scarce this fall with singles only at SPI, the last there Oct 11. Maxima for terns are: Common 300-330 in first week of Sep, Caspian 11, Black 35, all low. Departure dates are: Common Oct 3 (early); Caspian Oct 4, SPI, late; Black, Sep 15.

Dovekie: a winter-plumaged adult shot Nov 11 on Oneida Lake is, like the Kittiwake, a very rare find (a Regional first) but is somewhat more reasonable in view of northeast winds a day earlier.

Short-eared Owl: not one reported thru the period, especially surprising in comparison with the many Rough-legged Hawks seen.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: maximum count was 12, Sep 12, SP; one there Oct 4 (Rusk) is late. Flicker: Sep counts low 20-30/day; Nov reports very scarce. Red-bellied Woodpecker: regularly noted at HIGMA; singles reported thru Nov at Pulaski (Wood), Oneida (Nodecker), and Syracuse (Grimes); this is most likely fall dispersal from the Seneca River area rather than southern birds moving north, in contrast to the Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren advances. Red-headed Woodpecker: very scarce in fall migration; an immature regularly at a Syracuse feeder thru Nov (fide Burt) is notable. Hairy and Downy Woodpecker: no detectable Oct movement for either; however, abundant reports of these species at feeders thru Nov with roughly one: two ratio, quite comparable to last winter.

Kingbird: last group noted was a flock of 100 feeding with Cedar Waxwings about a stagnant pond at TRGMA, Sep 18, rather late for so large a number. Many flycatchers set late dates this fall — Crested Oct 4; Wood Pewee Oct 5; Alder Flycatcher Sep 29; Empidonax (sp?) Oct 11; Olive-sided Flycatcher Sep 20; maximum three, Sep 6 (Whites). Wood Pewee: counts of 30/day in first two weeks of Sep at SSSP. Horned Lark: counts of 25-120 from mid-Sep to early Nov but seemed notably scarce when compared to the abundant Pipits, Red-polls, and Snow Buntings.

The swallow thousands of early Aug rapidly dwindled to hundreds by Aug 30; a good Tree Swallow flight in mid-Sep (3000 on Sep 14, 1500 Sep 15 and 16); last dates are Tree Swallow Oct 24; Bank Swallow Oct 4 (late); Rough-winged Swallow Oct 17 (very late); Barn Swallow Oct 4; Cliff Swallow Sep 16 (on that date Ernst reported 35 at Raquette Lake with the temperature 39° — br!!); Purple Martin Sep 16. Crow: up to 4000/hour noted over HIGMA Nov 22 headed for the Montezuma roost; southward flights along SP up to 1400/day on Oct 18 and Nov 8. Blue Jay: a moderate Sep flight (30-60/day) gave promise of an Oct invasion which never materialized; marked feeder patronage thru Nov (315 in feeder survey) but rather scarce in the local woodlots, particularly along the north shore of Oneida Lake.

Black-capped Chickadee: a steady lakeside rush of these birds from early Sep to early Nov with peak of 166 Oct 10. White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch: only a fair fall movement with first migrants Sep 5 and Aug 29 respectively; peak White-breasted counts in the first two weeks of Oct; no evidence of a peak for Red-breasted, but they were widely reported and Nov reports are about four times the expected figures, from both feeders and natural situations. Wrens were notable only for their scarcity, most marked in the House (five-six/day maximum), least in the Winter.

Hermit Thrush: widely noted but counts low; maximum of 11, Oct. 14 at Syracuse; a decreased number of Nov reports is in keeping with the low migrational counts. Swainson's (Olive-backed) and Gray-cheeked Thrushes: though ground counts indicate a larger number of Swainson's than Gray-cheekeds (20: one this fall), the ratio amongst 22 dead or injured birds in the Syracuse TV tower kill Oct 2-3 was one:one. A Veery, stunned but able to fly, Oct 2 at the Syracuse TV towers is late. Bluebird: flock reports quite encouraging with groups of four to 20 reported from Sep 19 to Nov 1; peak of 27, Oct 25 (Nodecker).

Golden-crowned Kinglet and Ruby-crowned Kinglet: fall migrants first noted Sep 16 (early) and Sep 12 (late) respectively; Ruby-crowned Kinglet strangely scarce thru Sep, strong Oct flight of both (20-60/day for each); many Golden-crowned thru Nov; last date for Ruby-crowned Nov 18.

Pipit: desultory flight with peak of 200, Oct 28, Tully; last noted Nov 7, an early departure date.

Vireos — Warblers: No tower kills noted in Sep, probably because of the clear, warm weather that prevailed. On Oct 2-3, after a passing cold front, moderate cloudiness and traces of rain, approximately 110 birds were collected from below both towers, the majority warblers and vireos but a few thrushes and surprising number (nine) of Catbirds (Michener, Little).

Solitary (Blue-headed) Vireo: scarce in the otherwise good warbler-vireo flight; last noted Oct 11 (early). Red-eyed Vireo: ten - 35 noted in migration waves along

Sandy Pond; late Sep counts low but up to 11 in Oct 2-3 tower kills at Syracuse; last noted Oct 25, two, Oneida (Nodecker), quite late. Philadelphia Vireo: five individuals noted between Sep 12 and 26.

Warbler flights were fairly scant in the last two weeks of Aug and it was not until Sep 12 and a change of wind that a major flight was noted at Sandy Pond. As with the vireos there seemed to be a very sharp late Sep drop-off but good variety and numbers in the first week of Oct, noted both in the field and at the Syracuse TV towers. Warblers were strangely absent from the Verona Beach — Sylvan Beach area but seemed abundant at Bridgeport and SSSP.

Increased numbers were noted in Myrtle (peak 200, Oct 4), Parula (six, Sep 12), Magnolia (20, Sep 12), Black-throated Blue (total of 20), and especially in Black-throated Green (35 on Sep 12, 15-30 Sep 13-Oct 4) and Wilson's (peak of 16 on Sep 12). Markedly scarce were Chestnut-sided (only two in all Sep), Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll, all normally large components of Sep movements. Early departure was the rule, as the following dates show: Tennessee Oct 9, Nashville Oct 11, Magnolia Oct 4 (early), Black-throated Blue Oct 9, Myrtle Nov 29, Black-throated Green Oct 10 (very early), Cerulean Aug 28, Blackburnian Oct 4, Bay-breasted Oct 9, and Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Redstart all Oct 3. A Wilson's Warbler on Oct 11 (Spofford) is quite late but one, Nov 9, at Oneida (Ackley, Nodecker) is a record-breaker.

Rare and unusual fall warblers include an Orange-crowned Sep 24, Oneida (Felle), a Mourning Sep 13, HIGMA, and a Prairie Sep 9, SSSP (Evans).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Black Icterids made news only by their abundance and despoilage of corn and grain plantings, including those cultivated for wildlife. Maxima are 80,000 Redwings, 30,000 Grackles, 25,000 Cowbirds Oct 9, other indications of abundance are 20,000 Redwings in a 17-acre willow marsh Aug 31 and 80,000 Icterids and Starlings Oct 18 at Clay Swamp. Rusty Blackbird: first noted Sep 29; counts rather low (six-45) but noted widely; a high of 100, Oct 23. All black Icterids showed heavy late Nov feeding station attendance with even a few Rustys noted at feeds.

Fall sparrowing approximated spring warblering with marked waves of birds inundating the hedgerows and brush lots of the Region. Comments include "a flood of sparrows" at Syracuse Oct 14 (Propst), "hill pastures full of sparrows" near Rome Oct 16 (Aspinwall), and "hordes of sparrows" from Oct 17-22 in southern Madison County (Conservation Dep't personnel). A fine Nov winter finch flight compensated for a rapid decline in the earlier migrant species (Chipping, Savannah). Noteworthy too was the abundant feeding station traffic in sparrows (Song, Tree, White-throated Sparrows, Junco) and finches, including Evening Grosbeaks at feeders by the second week of Nov, this despite abundant weed and tree seed crops still available. Indigo Bunting: peak count 15, Sep 13, HIGMA; last noted Oct 3. Evening Grosbeak: first observed on Oct 25, five, Oneida (Nodecker); scattered groups (six-25) noted thereafter across the Region (Morrisville, Rome, Fayetteville, Bridgeport) but scarce (five reports only) in the western third (northern Cayuga County) until late Nov. Common Redpoll: 60, Nov 8 at Sandy Pond were the first recorded; thereafter reported in flocks (ten-60) from Rome, Phoenix, and Oneida but the larger numbers were consistently along Lake Ontario. Hoary Redpoll: a brilliant male, seen with a flock of 60 Common Redpolls, Nov 27 near Phoenix (Scheider). Purple Finch: a moderate flight thru Rome, Oneida, and southern Madison County starting Sep 14; however, singularly scarce throughout the fall along the Sandy Pond dunes and at SSSP, a migration route almost trammled by the Redpolls and Snow Buntings. Pine Siskin: a single Oct 3, TRGMA, is early; small groups reported with the Nov Redpoll flight but none with the goldfinch-junco-sparrow waves in mid-Oct. Goldfinch: flocks of 10-150 thru most of the fall; almost any small land bird wave seemed to bring more Goldfinches; however, a rapid drop-off noted after Nov 20.

Savannah and Field Sparrows: though seen in fair numbers (maxima of 30 and 32 respectively), these two species seemed scarce by comparison in the heavy Oct sparrow movement; departure dates Oct 24 and Nov 7 respectively, both rather early. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows: last observed at TRGMA Oct 17 and Oct 3 respectively, the latter slightly early in view of departure dates of recent years. Vesper sparrow: 20-30/day in early Oct with a peak of 200, Oct 15, Tully; seen to Nov 5 (Felle). Slate-colored Junco: first migrants Sept 12, Sandy Pond; thru Oct, hundreds reported with up to 1000/day noted; backyards were "filled with

Juncos" and Nodecker reported up to 100 in a small patch of crabgrass Oct 23; lesser numbers (30-60) remained to late Nov.

Tree Sparrow: two, Oct 17 are somewhat early; on the weekend of Nov 7-8 the fields and brushy marshes at Rome, Oneida, HIGMA (500,) and SSSP (400) were alive with these sparrows.

Chipping Sparrow: Maximum count 35, Sep 29 - Oct 3 near Baldwinsville; last noted Nov 19 at Oneida, rather late. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows: arrival dates are Sep 5, SSSP (Sep 11, Oneida) and Sep 25 respectively; peak counts of 600 and 75 respectively Oct 17-22; many White-throats both at feeders and in the field thru Nov. 31. White-crowns were spotted at feeders Nov 1-7 and at least six were present to late Nov at Oneida (Felle, Thurber) and Syracuse. Fox Sparrow: date range Sep 30-Nov 30 with peak of ten, Nov 7; Paquette and Thurber at Oneida reported Fox Sparrows at feeding stations regularly in the latter half of Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: high tally of five, Sep 29, TRGMA. Swamp and Song Sparrows: maxima of 65, Oct 17, and 450, Oct 11 (early) respectively; the steady heavy Song Sparrow movement thru late Oct and early Nov plus the many at feeders and in local marshes contrasts sharply with the rapid decline in Swamp Sparrows in late Oct and their near absence thru Nov. Snow Bunting: one, Oct 10, Sandy Pond, is early; counts of 100 occurred regularly after Nov 1.

151 *Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8*

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The rainfall continued to be plentiful and fall weather was a little late in coming. Leaves stayed on the trees very late. The birds seemed to arrive about on time, and a few individuals were present longer than might be expected.

There were two or three reports of birds that looked like Cattle Egrets. Rolla Parker and Kathryn Pilmore saw one near Cape Vincent and in this case the identification seems positive.

Loons — Ducks: Horned Grebes were reported as being definitely below normal in numbers this fall, but several were seen near Adam's Cove on Oct 31. There were seen near Adam's Cove on Oct. 31. There was a good flight of Canada Geese, and about 30 were seen south of Watertown on Nov 23. Sportsmen reported larger concentrations of Brant than have been seen in years in eastern sections of Lake Ontario. Mallards, Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal, and Scaup were present in good numbers. An aerial survey by the Conservation Department showed Black Ducks, but no Redheads or Canvasbacks, between Ogdensburg and Cape Vincent. It also showed large concentrations of Scaup in Lake Ontario near Cape Vincent and an estimated 60,000 near Henderson.

Hawks — Owls: An immature Turkey Vulture was shot in the southern part of the region about Oct 1. Belknap says there was the largest flight of Rough-legged Hawks in years, and other observers also noted an increase in these birds. They were reported from Oct 30 on. The last date for Marsh Hawks was Nov 25.

Semipalmated Plovers were seen at El Dorado Aug 22. Black-bellied Plovers were present from the middle of August to Nov 9 when four were observed at Sherwin's Bay. A few Ruddy Turnstones were seen at El Dorado on Aug 22 and Aug 29. Two dates for Solitary Sandpipers were Aug 22 and Aug 31. Greater Yellowlegs were reported through Nov 15. The only observation of Knots was that of four on Aug 22. Pectoral Sandpipers were noted through Oct 31, and Short-billed Dowitchers were seen Aug 22 and Aug 29 at El Dorado. Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted Aug 22 and Oct. 31. The last date for Sanderlings was Nov 9 when there were seven at Sherwin's Bay. Three Great Black-backed Gulls were seen at Guffin's Bay Nov 9, and there was a Bonaparte's Gull at Pt. Peninsula on Oct 31. Belknap saw two Snowy Owls just north of Watertown on Nov 25, but no others were reported.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: The last Tree Swallow report was Oct 14 near Clayton. Most of the Robins had departed by Oct 29. Gordon reported some 100 Water Pipits near Rodman on Oct 3. Northern Shrikes seemed to be scarce, but one was

seen near Pillar Point on Nov 9. There were dozens of Rusty Blackbirds on Pt. Peninsula Oct 31. Cardinals were reported several times during the fall in Watertown, and they have also been seen in Lowville. There were probably more of these birds present than a year ago.

Evening Grosbeaks appeared in Watertown early in November and were seen in many places in and near Watertown. They appeared to be even more numerous than last year at the comparable time. Allen saw Redpolls on Nov 8 and said they were plentiful.

A Rufous-sided Towhee was seen near Henderson on Nov 29. Juncos were very numerous throughout October, and a few stayed much later. The first date for Tree Sparrows was Oct 25. An immature White-crowned Sparrow was trapped and banded in Watertown on Nov 29; this species is usually not seen after about Nov 1. Snow Buntings were first observed Oct 26.

173 Haley Street, Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS LESPERANCE

Old-timers stood bearheaded and coatless in the balmy late fall sun and predicted an open winter this time. I hope they are right in their forecasts. Somehow the leaves didn't stay any longer than usual. Our first frost, right on time in September, ruined tomatoes and other plants.

The report below is brief. I hope that this next spring will show some new correspondents actively engaged in bird work so that a more comprehensive report can be given.

Loons — Ducks: Grebes and Common Loons arrived on the big lake in early September. The grebes were mostly Horned, but a few Pied-bills were seen during the open duck season.

There were strong flights of Snow Geese and better than average flights of Canada Geese, the earliest date for the latter being Sep 10. The Canadas took to landing locally in the wheat fields, and this caused some speculation about sunken pits for hunting them. They have not normally done this in previous years in numbers great enough to warrant this interest.

Again, as in other falls, the decrease in the numbers of waterfowl locally was notable. Practically all species were down in numbers, and some species didn't even put in an appearance. Black Ducks and Common Goldeneyes, our two principal species here, were both very low. White-winged Scoters were an exception; this species seemed to be somewhat more numerous this fall. Blue-winged Teal were almost non-existent after four good years. There were reports of Canvasback, Red-head, Aldsquaw, Green-winged Teal, and American Widgeon, but just enough to say they were here. Wood Ducks seemed to maintain good populations.

Hawks — Sparrows: There was a shallow migration of hawks the first week in September; these were mainly Broad-wings, but there was an occasional Red-tail or rare Red-shoulder. There was an occasional Sparrow Hawk still being seen at the end of the period along Route 9 north of Keeseville. Goshawks were unreported.

One or two Ring-billed Gulls were still being seen in late October. A Black Tern was seen on Aug 16-17 at the VA Hospital grounds in Sunmount (Amstutz). A Snowy Owl was found dead at Peru on Nov 11.

Canada Jays and White-winged Crossbills were unreported. Evening Grosbeak were seen beginning about Nov 10 and were present in ever increasing numbers thereafter. There were no observations of Pine Grosbeaks or Pine Siskins. There were many Tree Sparrows around Keeseville and along the roads the last half of November, and numerous Slate-colored Juncos seemed to be present at every weed patch.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

The summer drought conditions in the Mohawk-Hudson region continued well into October. However, October was the first month since January in which the precipitation was above normal. Temperatures for the entire period averaged above normal throughout most of the area. The hot and dry weather was certainly no inducement for many field trips. As a result the first one-third of the period covered by this report is based upon the observations of a few faithful correspondents.

A lone Dovekie, a species which had not previously been recorded in this region, took honors as rarity of the period (Ed-see field notes section, this issue).

Loons — Ducks: Both loons and all three grebes were reported during the period. Common Loons and Red-throated Loons were both late in arriving this year, Oct 22 and Nov 22 respectively. Red-necked Grebes were scarcer than usual, Horned Grebes slightly above average, and Pied-billed Grebes lingered until mid-November (Hallenbeck). Common Egrets peaked on Sep 19 when 39 were seen at Vischer's Ferry (Yunick). They were last noted Oct 11. Little Blue Herons were not observed after Sep 10. An American Bittern lingered at Guilderland Center until Nov 8 (Van Vorst). The variety of ducks and geese reported was above average but with no rarities. Snow Geese were observed primarily on Nov 8 when flocks totaling over 800 were seen at Tomhannock Reservoir by members of the Schenectady Bird Club (Ed-see field notes section, this issue). The first southbound Canada Geese were sighted on Sep 8, but no large flight occurred until the third week in October. Sixty Canada Geese were at Stockport on Nov 8 (Browns), and a spectacular migration of between 5000 and 10,000 was observed along the Hudson at Castleton on Nov 15 (Cook). Dabbling ducks occurred in normal numbers for the commoner species. No Gadwall, however, were reported, and only one shoveler was seen. Some late Wood Ducks were last seen on Nov 16. Diving duck numbers were slightly above the average. All three scoters and all three mergansers were reported.

Hawks — Owls: There were several September Turkey Vulture reports from the southern part of the region (Alan Devoe Bird Club). The commoner accipiters and buteos were reported in usual numbers. Nine Sharp-shins, 21 Broad-wings, and an Osprey flew over New Concord on Sep 11 (Radke). The only Rough-legged Hawk reported was seen on Nov 11 at Scotia (Hallenbeck). A Bald Eagle was noted on Sep 29, while the last Osprey was seen the last week in October. A Peregrine Falcon was observed Oct 25 at Crescent (Hallenbeck), and a Pigeon Hawk was noted on Aug 26 at Old Chatham (Reilly). Ruffed Grouse reports indicated that this species had a very good breeding season. No rails were reported during the period.

Shorebirds were reported frequently, no doubt as a result of low water in reservoirs and similar areas. Two Semipalmated Plovers were seen Sep 27 at Vischer's Ferry (Foote), and the rare Golden Plover was represented by a single individual at Tomhannock Reservoir on Oct 24 (Kaskan). A single Black-bellied Plover, locally an uncommon species at best, was reported from Tomhannock on Oct 11 (Angst, Sabin) and Nov 22 (Austin, Hipple). Two Pectoral Sandpipers were at Vischer's Ferry on Sep 20 (Foote), where they had been present for at least a month. A Least Sandpiper was also present at Vischer's Ferry on Aug 20. On Nov 8 eight Dunlin and two Sanderlings were still present at Tomhannock Reservoir (SBC). Both yellowlegs were widely reported, including Nov 8 at Tomhannock. The rare Northern Phalarope was seen at Lake Taghkanic on Oct 3 (Thurston).

No Great Black-backed or Bonaparte's Gulls had been reported up to the close of the period. Two uncommon (for this region) Common Terns were at Vischer's Ferry on Oct 11 (Foote). A first for this region was the Dovekie, previously alluded to, which was seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov 15 (SBC). Cuckoos were reported more frequently than usual. The common resident owls were all reported throughout the period. A Saw-whet Owl was picked up in Schenectady on Oct 30 and released outside the city (Bartlett). No Snowy Owls have been reported here this season.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The last Nighthawks were seen Sep 26 at Delmar (Madison) and Sep 28 at Canaan (Gokay), while Chimney Swifts were seen as late as Oct 24 in Troy (Yunick). Hummingbirds seemed quite numerous in the southern part of the region in September (ADBC). Migrant Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were first reported on Sep 19. Phoebees were noted rather widely, an encouraging sign after low numbers in the spring of the year. A new Purple Martin colony loca-

tion at Linlithgo had adults still feeding young on Aug 22 (ADBC). Tufted Titmice appeared to be faring better than the Carolina Wrens. Four scattered locations in as many counties constitute all those reported to date. One of these is for southern Saratoga County where the birds have been reported as being present since early October. On Nov 15 one of a pair was banded at Slingerlands (Sabin). Red-breasted Nuthatches have been abundant this fall; estimates ranged as high as 50 or 60 birds in a very small area. Migrant Winter Wrens were slightly ahead of average fall arrival dates when several were seen in different places on Sep 12. The date of the last reported House Wren was Oct 7. Carolina Wrens have apparently been unsuccessful in returning to their haunts of several years ago, repulsed by the extreme cold of two successive winters. An exception to this is their continued presence at Nassau (ADBC). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were not reported after Oct 18 (Hallenbeck). A Mockingbird was seen in Livingston on Oct 19 (Munsons). Neither Catbirds nor Brown Thrashers appeared to be lingering anywhere in the region. Hermit Thrushes were scarce. Two Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at Red Rock on Sep 30 and again on Oct 3 (Smilows). Bluebirds were still scarce, although not to the degree of the previous spring. A few Robins were still present at the end of the period. Both kinglets were reported in about average numbers. A few Ruby-crowns were still present on Nov 30, which is a late date. Water Pipits were observed in good numbers for the short period of their passing through. The nomadic Cedar Waxwing continued to go unreported for long periods, an exception being in the Burnt Hills section of Saratoga County where it was fairly regular. Two Northern Shrikes were the only representatives of this family reported. These were seen at widely separated localities on the same date of Nov 19.

Vireos — Sparrows: A late Warbling Vireo was seen at Schenectady on Oct 8 (Eddy). The fall warbler migration was unspectacular, probably because of the extremely hot and dry weather. The following warblers were last reported on later than average departure dates: Worm-eating — Sep 25 (Hallenbeck); Golden-winged — Sep 24 (ADBC); Blue-winged — Sep 8 (ADBC); Blackburnian — Oct 11 (Kilcawley); Palm — Oct 25 (SBC); Northern Waterthrush — Oct 16 (French); Mourning — Sep 23 — banded (Radke), and Canada — Sep 25 (Hallenbeck). There were two unusually late reports of Tennessee Warblers. One was seen at Nassau on Nov 18 and again on Nov 22 (ADBC), at which time it was banded. The other report was of a bird seen at Schenectady on Nov 26 (Stone). One other unusual note concerns the Kentucky Warbler. This species apparently has an affinity for Columbia County in extending its range to the north, following the Hudson valley and appearing at Ghent and East Chatham on Sep 20 and Sep 30 respectively (Radke, Smilow). A good flight of Black-throated Blues was at Old Chatham on Sep 15 (Reilly). There were September Connecticut Warbler reports from Castleton (Cook), Ghent (Erlénbach), and Nassau (Turner). Wilson's Warblers were not infrequently reported during September (ADBC).

A late Baltimore Oriole was recorded at Loudonville on Nov 13 (French), in the same tree where one had been seen the previous November. Two very early Rusty Blackbirds were seen by several observers on Aug 20 at Vischer's Ferry. By October this species was widely reported, as one would expect. The last report of a Scarlet Tanager was of one seen in Albany on Oct 10 (Rzeszoto), a later than average departure date. A late Indigo Bunting was recorded Oct 4 at Loudonville (French). Evening Grosbeaks appeared on Sep 15, a portent of an invasion which to date appears to have penetrated all parts of the region. Purple Finches were scarce in the Schenectady area, but they were reported as quite common in Columbia County after Oct 20. Redpolls were quite widely reported after the middle of Nov, sufficiently so to indicate that this is a minor invasion year for this species. Pine Siskins were reported only during the last week of Nov from Columbia County (Cook, Erlénbach). An Albino Goldfinch was at Fonda on Nov 1 (K. Meritt et al).

A late Henslow's Sparrow was seen at Loudonville on Oct 25 (French). Juncos arrived at Schenectady on Sep 24, about ten days later than average. Reports showed them to be more abundant than last year, flocks of 50 to 75 being not uncommon. A late Field Sparrow was sighted at Schenectady on Nov 26 (Stone). White-crowned Sparrows first appeared in the region on Sep 26 (Turner). Their numbers appeared to be a little below normal. The last individual of this species was seen at Amsterdam on Nov 9 (Fitzgerald). White-throats, like Juncos, were about ten days late, arriving on Sep 15 (ADBC). The elusive Lincoln's Sparrow was seen on Oct 14

around a banding trap at Nassau (Turner). Snow Buntings were commonly reported during the first three weeks of November.

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

The weather during our late summer and fall period can be simply described as warm and wet. The tree foliage seemed to remain longer than usual, and its coloration was slow to develop. November skies held little snow. In general, however, it was a normal period, the kind of a season that leaves little impression on the mind to remember.

Returning to the field after a midsummer break, observers were ready for the fall migration which turned out to be, like the weather, quite a normal one with the usual ups and downs of certain species. In November we looked about for those birds that would probably winter, finding some, and we searched in vain for any spectacular flights of northern visitors. Some observers reported a good seed crop while others thought the crop poor, but these impressions were too restricted to make an accurate account for this region possible.

Loons — Ducks: Only one Red-necked Grebe report was received, a lone individual at Hook Mt., Nyack, on Nov 9 (Eugene Brown). An American Bittern was seen at Crugers Island, Dutchess County, on Nov 23, and the bird may attempt to winter (Rufus and Margaret Wood). This Bittern seems less common than in years past. Five adult and two immature Whistling Swans were observed at Hook Mt., Nyack, Rockland County, from Nov 2 thru Nov 9 (Katherine Dienemann, Eugene Brown et al). This is Rockland's third local record. The migration of Canada Geese through the Hudson Valley was apparently heavy as judged from the reports and comments. An early flock was reported by William Grierson on Sep 22 over Mt. Kisco in Westchester, and peak flights occurred from mid to late October. A late flock was seen on Nov 25 (F. Hough). A lone Brant in a flock of Coots was observed by Ruth Steffans at Congers Lake, Rockland County, on Oct 16. It is not often seen inland from the Hudson River. Most observers missed the Snow Geese, but Paul Jeheber got a nice flock of over 350 as they passed over the Cornwall sector of Orange County on Nov 16. For some other reason a single Snow Goose came into a flock of tame ducks swimming on a small stream near Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, during a date in mid-Nov and was still present at the end of the period (Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club).

The largest flock of Green-winged Teal was reported at Swift Pond, Dover Plains, Dutchess County, on Oct 26 where 30 were seen by G. Decker. Oldsquaws were reported in Orange County (E. Treacy, P. Jeheber, J. Dye) and Ulster County (A. Feldman, G. Wood). Two White-winged Scoters were at Orange Lake in Orange County on Nov 21 (Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Pembleton, Ed Treacy). Ruddy Ducks reached a high of over 500 in a flock on the Hudson at Tappan Zee, Rockland Co., on Nov 25 (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deed).

Hawks — Owls: The movement of Turkey Vultures through the upper counties was noticeably good. Henry and Ilse Dunbar saw about 60 in a flock near Stone Ridge, Ulster County, on Oct 8. These big birds started moving about Sep 15, and most had gone by Oct 20. Except for the Broad-wing most other hawk flights were considered unimpressive. On Sep 12 Ed Treacy counted over 275 Broad-wings passing over Cornwall, Orange Co., and at the same place on Sep 20 at least 375 more were observed by Treacy, A. Dignor, and N. Ward. Down in New City, Rockland County, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffans added another 150 Broad-wings on Sep 25. An early Rough-legged Hawk appeared at Pomona, Rockland County, on Oct 20 (Ed Gamble), and another was seen on Oct 31 near Blooming Grove, Orange Co. (E. A. Mearns Bird Club). Ed Treacy, Paul Jeheber, and Robert Bruce had an unexpected thrill in seeing an immature Golden Eagle passing low over the fire tower at Black Rock Forest near Cornwall, Orange Co., on Oct 17. On Oct 9 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deed watched a Peregrine Falcon repeatedly attack a Marsh Hawk flyng over the vicinity of Piermont Marsh in Rockland County.

A Virginia Rail was seen at Crugers Island on Nov 23 (Rufus and Margaret

Wood). The Common Gallinule was found at two locations in Dutchess County during September, Millbrook and Amenia. One positive nesting record had been made (Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club). Killdeer generally pass through in small flocks, but Mr. and Mrs. Deed saw one flock of nearly 60 in a cornfield near Orangeburg, Rockland, Oct 29. The Black-bellied Plover appeared near Blooming Grove on Oct 19 (Martha Earl), and on Oct 31 a dozen also appeared on the runways of the air force base near Newburgh, Orange County (Treacy, Jeheber, Dye). The Pectoral Sandpiper was last seen near Blooming Grove on Nov 5 (M. Earl), and one was still at the Spring Valley Memorial Park, Rockland Co., on Nov 6 (E. Gamble). The only Caspian Terns reported during the season were the four seen at Piermont Pier on Sep 7 by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deed.

The Cuckoos took the spotlight for some late departure dates. Sam and Helen Hayes saw a cuckoo on Oct 13 near Mt. Marion, Ulster County, and over in Dutchess County at Pleasant Valley Mr. M. Van Wagmer saw a Black-billed Cuckoo on Oct 14. The incredibly late dates, however, were made by Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wood in another set of Dutchess County observations. They reported a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Lagrangeville on Nov 14 and on Nov 15 a Black-billed Cuckoo at the same place. We wonder what influenced these birds to linger so — late foliage, good insect fare? Owls about the region seemed to be normal. One Saw-whet Owl was reported by Mrs. Robertson Barrett at her residence near Katonah, Westchester Co., on Nov 15.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Chandler Young reported hearing the last Whip-poor-will, Sep 10 at Naponach, Ulster County. Night-hawks moved through the region in good numbers during their regular migrating period of late August and early September. It was last seen in Dutchess County near Hillside Lake on Oct 3 (J. Geisler). In Orange Co. Martha Earl saw her last Nighthawk near Blooming Grove on Oct 9. Some late Chimney Swifts were noted at Bear Mountain, Orange Co., on Oct 16 (John Orth). There were fewer than normal reports of the Red-headed Woodpecker. One was seen near Minnewaska, Ulster Co., on Sep 19 by Bob Pyle. Sapsuckers were reported more often during the period.

A late Wood Pewee was seen near Stone Ridge on Oct 14 (F. Hough). The flight of swallows was probably near normal. No heavy flight of Blue Jaws was noted, although the movement was good during the latter part of September. A Raven was seen near Rhinecliff, Dutchess County, on Aug 27 (F. Hough). It was a fairly good season for the Red-breasted Nuthatch with many reports received on them from the various counties. The Carolina Wren continues to hold its own in many scattered areas of the region. The Mockingbird is apparently establishing itself in Rockland (R. Deed) and Putnam Counties (M. Little). A late Wood Thrush was found at Upper Nyack on Nov 2 (E. Brown), which is close to Rockland's latest date for the species. From all appearances the fall flight of Bluebirds was moderate and not altogether a discouraging one.

Martha Earl saw the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher near Blooming Grove on Sep 16 and again on the 26th. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deed also saw this same species on Oct 7 near the entrance to Stony Point Park, Rockland County. The Golden-crowned Kinglet was reported as more numerous in Dutchess and Ulster Counties during the fall.

Vireos — Warblers: A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen near New Paltz, Ulster County, on Sep 19 (R. Pyle), and the last Solitary Vireo reported was at Dover Plains, Dutchess County, on Oct 10 (G. Decker). The elusive Philadelphia Vireo was seen at Blooming Grove on Sep 12 by members of the E. A. Mearns Bird Club.

The warbler migration was quite unspectacular through most of the region. However, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deed added a new late date for the Worm-eating Warbler in Rockland Co. with the discovery of one at Nyack on Oct 6. One of the most difficult warblers to observe in either the spring or the fall is the Orange-crowned. Martha Earl took one in her banding traps which gave her an excellent opportunity to study the bird. At Mohonk in Ulster County Dan Smiley found a Parula Warbler on Oct 10 that had been killed in collision with a picture window. At Pleasant Valley in Dutchess Co. Mrs. E. Pink had a Cape May Warbler visiting her open cup honey feeder during the latter part of September and early October. In Bedford Village, Westchester County, Mrs. James Behan Jr. observed two Cape Mays on Sep 29. Two Connecticut Warblers appeared at Lagrangeville in Dutchess Co. on Aug 29 (F. Germond and T. Haight), and this same species was seen again there on Sept 13 (R. Wood). Down in Rockland County Mrs. William Hackett found a Connecticut Warbler with a broken leg. The bird eventually died (Oct 12). A

Mourning Warbler was seen during the latter days of September near Poughkeepsie (M. and J. Keyes).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A large migration of Scarlet Tanagers was noted at Dover Plains, Dutchess County, on Sep 24 (RTWBC). Although none was seen there after that date a large flock of nearly 50 was observed on Oct 6 in South Nyack, Rockland County (Deeds). In Upper Nyack Dr. M. Hopper had a Scarlet Tanager on Oct 16, tying for the late date. Dickcissels seem to be appearing as regular visitors to this region. One was observed near Standfordville, Dutchess Co., on Oct 20 (B. Dueel, T. Haight), and one stayed around the home of Dr. M. Hopper in Upper Nyack from Oct 28 to Nov 6. Three appeared at the home of Mrs. Frances Irving in West Nyack on Nov 20. As usual the Evening Grosbeaks wandered about the region in variable numbers. The greatest concentrations seemed to be in the Dutchess County area. Although the general influx of Evening Grosbeaks occurred shortly after Nov 1, apparently some earlier flights did occur as indicated by their appearance at Moores Mills, Dutchess Co., on Oct 6 (H. Manson). No flight of Pine Grosbeaks was indicated during this period. Pine Siskins were scattered and generally uncommon.

Crossbills were either very scarce or escaped observation. The only report received was that of some Red Crossbills seen near New Paltz on Oct 29 (Ralph Johnson). A nice flock of 25 Savannah Sparrows was found at West Haverstraw, Rockland Co., on Oct 27 by Dr. M. Hopper and Eugene Brown. Up in Ulster County a Savannah Sparrow, left from the October flights, was found staying about a dry, weedy knoll near Kripplebush through most of November (F. Hough). A Field Sparrow visited a feeder in Katonah, Westchester, on Nov 16 (E. Odell), and it may be the same bird that visited this feeder last year. Another was at West Nyack, Rockland, on Nov 17 (Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weindling).

White-crowned Sparrows fell under more frequent observation this fall. They were reported as early as Sep 26 in Rockland (Jack LeMaire) and were last reported on Nov 11 at Mt. Marion, Ulster County (Sam and Helen Hayes). They were more abundant than usual during late October. White-throats were about in their usual numbers. They started arriving at the feeding station of Mrs. F. H. Lent in Katonah, Westchester, on Sep 15. The first Fox Sparrows reported were those found in Dutchess County on Oct 20 (RTWBC). Martha Earl must have a strategic position on the migration route of skulking Lincoln's Sparrows that pass through her area in Blooming Grove, Orange County. Her traps netted her seven between Sep 18 and Oct 14. Snow Buntings were reported in Ulster County (Henry and Ilse Dunbar) but not elsewhere in our region.

Accord 1

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

A drought of major proportions extended from late August into October which dried up lawns and seriously affected crops, especially on eastern Long Island. Frequent rainfall characterized the latter part of the period, much of it falling on weekends. Fairly warm weather prevailed to the end of the period with no snow in sight.

The number of late white herons was a feature of the fall. During previous years two or three after October was regarded as exceptional. A satisfactory variety of shorebirds was recorded. Numerous warblers came through eastern Long Island, and there were fair warbler flights at Jamaica Bay on September 10 and again on September 19. There was a good White-crowned Sparrow flight.

Loons — Ducks: Loons migrated through in fair numbers in November. A Red-throated Loon in full summer plumage was seen at Brookhaven on Oct 4 (Puleston). The earliest Horned Grebe report was at Jamaica Bay Sep 27 (Norse). Fifty Gannets were noted at Montauk Nov 15 (Good, Pemberton). The maximum mixed flock of late summer egrets was some 250-300 at East Moriches (Drayton). On Nov 1 an estimated 38 Common Egrets and one Snowy Egret flew out of a pine grove at Jones Beach (Elliott), and on Nov 21 there were 13 Common and eight Snowy Egrets at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary on the west pond alone (Baldwin Bird Club. Over 50 Great Blue Herons were observed flying over the Quogue marshes on Oct 3 (Puleston). A Little Blue Heron was at Jamaica Bay Sep 14, and there

was a Least Bittern there on Sep 6. The Glossy Ibis, after maximum numbers this year, was found rather consistently in that area to Sep 7. A Glossy Ibis at Bayville on Nov 9 provided us with our latest regional record for the species (Van Sant). Although breeding abundantly on Long Island, the Mute Swan on Staten Island is sufficiently rare to be recorded, with an immature at Wolf's Pond Park Nov 7-11 (Miss Weingartner).

The Canada Goose was more common than usual this fall in Orient (Latham) and appeared on Willow Brook Pond and at Wolf's Pond Park, Staten Island, on several occasions in late October and early November. There were several reports of Snow Geese seen in western Long Island. Eight Whistling Swans alighted in Shinnecock Bay on eastern Long Island on Oct 28 (Wilcox), and two Blue Geese flew close overhead at Brookhaven on Oct 26 (Puleston).

Pintail arrived at Jamaica Bay on Sep 5, and both Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal arrived on Sep 14. Maximum American Widgeon numbers approached 5000 in November. A single European Widgeon was at Jamaica Bay on Nov 19. On the west pond at Jamaica Bay on Nov 21 were 1500 Scaup, 25 Shovelers, 10 Canvasbacks, five Common Goldeneyes, 150 Buffleheads, and at least 20 Hooded Mergansers. The Hooded Merganser increased remarkably to 100 or more by the end of the period, and there was a somewhat larger number at Smith Pond in Rockville Centre.

Hawks — Owls: The accipiter flight was reportedly light, and relatively few buteos were observed. However, several Rough-legged Hawks were reportedly present in the Meadowbrook and Jones Beach areas beginning early November (numerous observers). Several Bald Eagles were recorded. One was at Far Rockaway on Oct 19 (Bull), and there was an early September record at Jamaica Bay (Johnson). There was a fair movement of Ospreys through the area with five at Tackapausha Preserve, Seaford, on Oct 18 (Morgan), this in spite of the fact that Herring Gull depredation on Gardiner's Island reduced the banded young to six this summer where 20 years ago 75 could be banded (Wilcox). The falcon flight was excellent; 13 Peregrines were reported from Sep 25 to Oct 15 at Shinnecock, with a maximum of seven on Oct 9 (Wilcox). A Jones Beach Peregrine Falcon count was even greater, with 32 recorded from Oct 2 to Oct 12. The maximum was 18 on Oct 10 (Ward). Also seen on Oct 10 were a Cooper's Hawk, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and 50 Sparrow and Pigeon Hawks.

According to Puleston, the Virginia Rail was scarce this year in the Brookhaven Marsh, and the Sora, scarce for several years, was reported Sep 20. The Sora was also present at Port Washington Sep 23-27 (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society), and there was one at Jamaica Bay Sep 6. Single Common Gallinules were at Quogue Oct 21 (Wilcox) and at Jamaica Bay Nov 21 (Baldwin Bird Club). Two downy young Coot were seen on Sep 10. Woodcock appeared at Jones Beach again this year with three Oct 11-18 (Garland, Julig). Three Willets, two Hudsonian Godwits, and a Wilson's Phalarope were at Moriches Inlet on Aug 22 (Raynor). Both Red and Wilson's Phalaropes were present in early fall at Jamaica Bay. The Hudsonian Godwit was found at Jamaica Bay from Oct 3 through the month, and two Avocets were there from Sep 30 through late October. A fairly good count of shorebirds taken Oct 29 at Jamaica Bay included 42 Black-bellied Plovers, three White-rumped Sandpipers, and 350 Dunlin. A maximum count of five Solitary Sandpipers was made at Northport on Sep 1 (Mudge). Purple Sandpipers put in an appearance at the Fire Island jetty, with seven being seen on Oct 16 (Darrow). The species was also present at the Long Beach jetties in late November (Baldwin Bird Club).

An Iceland Gull was at Montauk Nov 15 (Pembleton, Good), and 12 Kittiwakes were seen that same day. A fairly good flight of Bonaparte's Gulls came through with 27 at Crab Meadow Beach on Nov 29 (Mr. and Mrs. T. Below). Four late Common Terns were present at Fire Island Inlet all through October, and the species was seen again Nov 8 (Darrow). Two Caspian Terns were at Jones Beach Oct 10 (Ward). A Royal Tern was observed at Moriches Inlet on Aug 22 (Raynor), and two were there on Aug 27 (Puleston). Black Terns were uncommonly reported in comparison to some fall migrations. There were no late lingering Black Skimmers.

There were several Dovekie records. One was at Jones Beach on Nov 1 (Ward), and three oiled birds were noted at the end of the period at Quogue, Speonk, and Westhampton (Wilcox). No other alcids were reported. Cuckoos were scarce, but there was a late Yellow-billed at Babylon Oct 29 (Alperin). Snowy Owls were unreported, but the Barn Owl was recorded at Oak Beach in early November (Darrow),

at Tobay on Nov 10 (Heck), and one was at Jamaica Bay on Sep 6. On Sep 3-7 the Screech Owl was heard calling in three locations, Hampton Bays, Manorville, and Jamesport (Raynor). Several Saw-whet Owls were observed. One was at Pelham Oct 31, another was at Meadowbrook Nov 8, three were at Jones Beach Nov 14 (Heck), and one was at the William T. Davis Wildlife Refuge on Staten Island Oct 20 (Miss Weingartner).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The Nighthawk flight peak was 40 on Sep 1 at Manorville (Raynor). A late Chimney Swift was at Wyandanch on Oct 26 (Pemberton, Good). In the Shinnecock area from Aug 25 to Oct 31 Wilcox, of Speonk, netted and banded 3,170 birds of 87 species. His first fall dates followed by maximum numbers: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sep 12, three on Oct 13; Brown Creeper, Sep 25, nine on Oct 10; Swainson's Thrush, Sep 10, 16 on Sep 25; Golden-crowned Kinglet, Sep 25, 44 on Oct 5; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Sep 18, five on Oct 16. A tremendous Flicker flight was reported by Garland and Julig from Oct 11-18. Many Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers and a very good flight of both species of kinglets were noted those same dates. Three Western Kingbirds were seen within a hundred feet of each other along Dune Road, Westhampton, Oct 25 (Puleston). One was at Jones Beach Oct 10 (Levine), and another was at Oak Beach Nov 11 (Darrow). On Staten Island only two Brown Creepers were seen; they have been very scarce there for two years. Mockingbird singles were at Fire Island State Park Oct 13, Oak Beach on Oct 21 (Darrow), Montauk on Oct 25, and Jamaica Bay on Sep 6. Three Water Pipits were observed at Jamaica Bay Sep 26 (Mrs. P. Messing). Blue birds were scarce, but seven were at Babylon Oct 28 (Alperin).

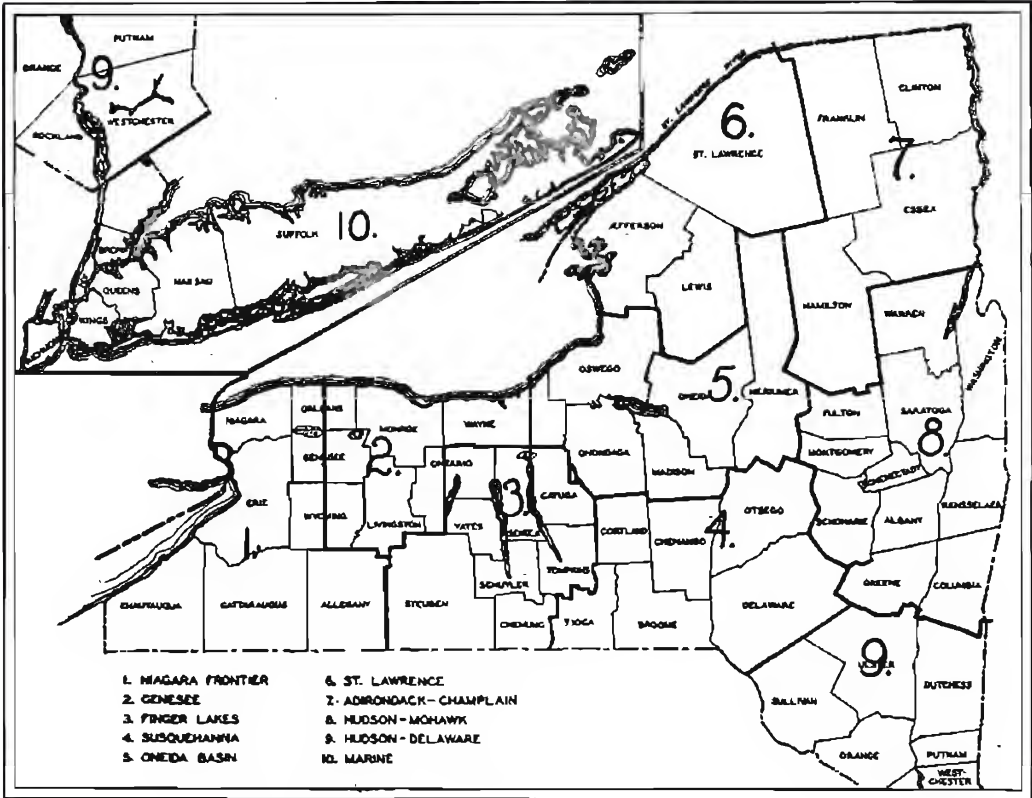
Vireos — Warblers: There were practically no Yellow-throated or Warbling Vireos reported. The first Solitary Vireo was at Shinnecock Sep 26. There were several records of Philadelphia Vireos, the first being Sep 4 at Shinnecock (Wilcox). A Bell's Vireo was carefully identified, banded, and released at Shinnecock on Sep 25 by Wilcox. Twenty species of warblers were banded there by Wilcox. First dates followed by maximums: Cape May Warbler, Sep 9, five on Sep 18; Myrtle Warbler, Sep 23, 84 on Oct 15; Blackpoll Warbler, first banded Sep 17, seven on Sep 25; Yellow-breasted Chat, a total of 16 banded, with a maximum of three caught on the first day, Sep 4. Ten species of warblers were seen at Jones Beach on Sep 19, at which time there was also a good flight at Jamaica Bay. A fair warbler movement was noted on Sep 10. Several Connecticut Warblers were reported on western Long Island, but the only Mourning Warbler noted was one Sep 5 at Shinnecock (Wilcox). A Pine Warbler was seen at Brookhaven Oct 16, and one of the best warbler records was a Kentucky at that locality on Aug 19 (Puleston).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Thirty-five migrant Meadowlarks, some singing, were at Orient Oct 30 (Latham), and there was a good mid-October flight at Jones Beach (Garland). A Rusty Blackbird was at Shinnecock Sep 25 (Wilcox), and there was a Sep 19 record of a Blue Grosbeak at Jones Beach (Levine, Mudge, Ward). Seven to 15 indigo Buntings were noted in a half-mile radius at Port Washington during the latter part of September (Yyman Langdon Audubon Society); one was at Babylon on Nov 8 (Alperin). There were about a half-dozen reports of Evening Grosbeaks, with a maximum of 36 at Jones Beach on Nov 21 (Levine). Large flocks of Purple Finches were present in the month of October at the Wm. T. Davis Wildlife Refuge (Miss Weingartner). The maximum Pine Siskin count was 150 at Brookhaven on Nov 11 (Puleston).

There were several records of Ipswich Sparrows at Moriches and Jamaica Bay. A good flight of Savannah Sparrows was noted along the coast. One Lark Sparrow was observed at Jones Beach Oct 2 (Levine). At Shinnecock maximum flights were noted as follows: Slate-colored Junco Oct 5, White-crowned Sparrow Oct 13, and White-throated Sparrow Oct 25 (Wilcox). There was a good flight of White-crowned Sparrows along the Fire Island coast in late October (Darrow). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at Shinnecock on Sep 23, Oct 5, and Oct 7. A Clay-colored Sparrow was reported at Jones Beach Oct 18 (Garland, Julig), and another was at Short Beach Nov 20 (Carlton). Ten Lapland Longspurs were present at Jamaica Bay on Nov 21 (Baldwin Bird Club). There were several reports of Snow Buntings, with the first being at Shinnecock on Oct 22 (Wilcox); the maximum of 150 was at Short Beach Nov 21 (Levine, Ward).

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